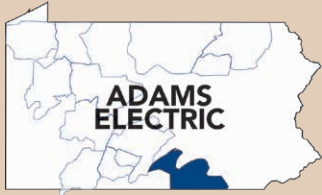




# Adams Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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.

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P.O. Box 1055  
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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](http://adamsec.coop)

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

*This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*

## Guest Column

# Interconnection Activity Expanding



**MIKE JOHNSON**

**ADAMS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE SERVES MOSTLY** rural areas in five counties in south-central Pennsylvania. This leads many to believe our members are not diverse. However, the opposite holds true, and we see diversity every day when interacting with our consumers. The board of directors, from a governance standpoint, and the employees, from an operational viewpoint, spend a lot of time discussing the impacts of programs, rates, industry trends, technology changes, and so much more to balance all of our members' varied needs.

The cooperative started interconnecting alternative generation projects (mostly solar) to our distribution system in early 2007. We have heard all the debates on the pros and cons of solar as a power source, and as an electric distribution cooperative, it is not our job to pick a side in those debates. As a member-owned cooperative, it is our responsibility to collaborate with all members in the fairest way possible. As we near almost two decades since that first member installed a solar energy system, we now have more than 340 consumers who have interconnected to our distribution system.

For the first time since mid-2008, all of these interconnected members are covered by the same interconnection and power purchase agreement (IPPA). We had many updated versions of that complicated contract over the years, and it was challenging to manage those multiple versions. Members who were interconnected before 2023 received a notice last summer that Adams Electric was ending their IPPA at the end of that year. We did this to create a singular, more consistent and more manageable agreement for our members who are using renewable energy.

While every contract version had a termination clause in it, some members were surprised by our recent letter. A few worried the interconnection program was ending; others questioned the letter's corporate tone. Our intent wasn't to cause confusion, or not to be cooperative. We simply wanted the new contract to be taken seriously.

For our nearly 30,000 members who are reading this column and do not have an alternative generation account, you may be wondering what this has to do with you. While you may not have an alternative generation system interconnected today, they are becoming more prevalent in our communities. You see neighbors installing solar on their homes, and farmers are leasing out fields for large-scale systems. You might even see the occasional wind turbine while driving down a rural road. Again, we are not joining the debate about these systems, but we are obligated to interconnect them in the fairest way possible. It is also our responsibility to help members who are interested in alternative generation by sharing how the process works with the cooperative.

Adams Electric does not have the resources to determine if solar will work for you or not. What we can tell you is how the interconnection process will work under co-op policies and procedures and how the solar rate will appear on your electric bill. (Adams Electric also changed its net-metering billing practice at the beginning of 2024 to make the rate more equitable to all members of

*Continued on page 14C*

## We're Sharing CoBank's Success with Our Community

**ADAMS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE IS COMMITTED** to giving back to the communities where we live, work and serve. This commitment to our community is not just a co-op principle — it's part of our mission to improve the quality of life in the communities we serve, too. Through charitable donations and volunteer efforts, we are working to make life better in rural south-central Pennsylvania.

One way we do this is by partnering with other cooperative entities like CoBank, "rural America's cooperative

bank" and one of the largest private providers of credit to the rural economy. Each year since 2012, CoBank has funded its "Sharing Success" program, which matches local cooperative contributions to charitable organizations across the country.

This year, in addition to those shown below, the cooperative also received a matching grant from CoBank to support its member assistance program, Project Helping Hand, which you can learn more about at [adamsec.coop](http://adamsec.coop).



SARAH FRANK



SARAH FRANK

**GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY:** At left, Adams Electric's York District Superintendent Shawn Dehoff, left, and Member Services Representative Meredith Miller, right, present a donation from the cooperative and CoBank to Keystone Human Services Ambassador Casey Gould and her Susquehanna service dog, "PECO." At right, cooperative CEO/General Manager Steve Rasmussen meets with Ye Olde Sulphur Historical Society members – from left, Cathay Snyder, Donna King, Daena Creel and Elaine Gilbert – to present a donation. The funds will support the group's efforts to expand the York Springs museum. Below, Rasmussen, second from the right, visits students and teachers at the Oakside Summer Camp in Biglerville to present a donation from Adams Electric and CoBank. The camp is sponsored by the Center for Youth and Community Development, which hosts similar academic camps throughout Adams County.



SARAH FRANK

# Members Share Their Experiences with Solar Investments

Two couples, who are Adams Electric members and have interconnected photovoltaic systems, share their thoughts on their alternative generation investments. Each was asked the same set of questions. Some responses may have been edited for space. Read all responses in full at [adamsec.coop](http://adamsec.coop).

## Ed and Mary Franco, Lower Frankford Township, Cumberland County; members since 1981

**Q:** When did you install your photovoltaic system?

**A:** We installed our photovoltaic system on our south-facing barn roof in March 2010 using the 2009 Pennsylvania Sunshine Residential Solar Program (Pa. Sunshine) to assist with 35% of the cost.

**Q:** What system do you have?

**A:** Pa. Sunshine limited financial assistance to 10-kilowatt (kW) systems. Therefore, our 9.6-kW system consists of 48 Suntech flush-mounted, 200-watt panels. Each panel is approximately 3 feet by 5 feet, covering an area of the roof that's 21 feet by 42 feet. We have a Fronius inverter to change the direct current from the array to alternating current for our use.

**Q:** What prompted your decision to install solar?

**A:** Pennsylvania's Electrical Net Metering Law of December 2006 helped to make photovoltaic systems possible for residential customers without battery backup and total off-grid systems. The availability of Federal Residential Energy Tax Credits and Pa. Sunshine influenced our decision to install a photovoltaic system for energy conservation. We carefully evaluated the life span of the system, the cost and the amount of time that it would take to pay off the system. Mary and I built a passive solar home in 1981. Our house faces "solar south." Our barn is oriented like our home, so the south-facing peaked roof and angle are close to ideal for the solar array.

**Q:** Would you do it again?

**A:** Yes. We have been very pleased with the system, its reliability and its non-intrusive placement on our barn roof. In 2009-2010, the cost of this 9.6-kW system was \$57,500 installed (\$37,300 of that cost was recouped in the first year through rebate and tax credits). Today, the price of panels has come down significantly, so a similar system now costs roughly \$30,000 before any tax credits.

**Q:** What surprises did you find along the way?

**A:** The volatility in Solar Renewable Energy Credit (SREC) prices was more extreme than we had expected. During the first two years of production, we received approximately \$275 for each of the 12 SRECs we generated, which we sold through an aggregator. By year three, the SREC rate in Pennsylvania had dropped to \$18 per SREC. In the ensuing years, the state's SREC rate has gone as low as \$5 and as high as \$50. A bill was passed by the state legislature to "close the borders," so Pennsylvania solar producers would see an increase in their SREC rates. This led to a modest increase — I just received a payment of \$36 per SREC.

During the same period, the state Public Utility Commission announced price caps on electric rates were going to be expiring. Because we are an Adams Electric member, we recognized those changes would probably not dramatically affect our electric rates. I took a very conservative approach to projecting the length of time to completely "pay off" the approximately \$20,000 investment from savings on electric bills and lower SREC payments. This was achieved in 2022 after 12 years.

*Continued on page 14D*

## GUEST COLUMN

*Continued from page 14A*

the cooperative.) This will vary greatly compared to other electric utilities, and salespeople do not always provide the most accurate information.

Our best advice: Don't sign anything until you or your contractor contact us first. Gather as much information as you can about a potential interconnection and then contact us to verify the information is accurate and within our operating guidelines. Again, we recommend you do not sign anything until you contact us. We have had many discussions with members after they signed a contractor's contract with a solar installer and by then it's too late to correct the misinformation. In addition, there is an agreement required between any member installing an alternative generation project, the cooperative and Allegheny Electric Cooperative, Inc., our wholesale energy provider in Harrisburg.

At the end of the day, we are still your trusted energy provider and adviser, and we want to be here to help. While diversity challenges us to be everything to all of our members, we will continue to try to assist each member individually in their energy conservation endeavors. 📧

### MIKE JOHNSON

MANAGER OF SAFETY/KEY ACCOUNTS/  
ACCOUNTING



## SOLAR INVESTMENTS

*Continued from page 14C*

**Q:** *What is the greatest benefit and/or drawback?*

**A:** Our solar array made our recent purchase of a plug-in hybrid vehicle attractive due to the fact we can charge it during the day at a small cost. In general, the array also reduces our contribution to air pollution locally.

Really, the only drawback was the 12-year period to pay off the system. However, we have been pleased that the system has not required any maintenance and that it is still producing 95% of its capacity. We now anticipate the array should not significantly reduce its output for another 15 years.

**Q:** *What else would you like to share?*

**A:** I appreciate you focusing on a few solar users in the local co-op. I found the questions and digging through some of my data and records useful and helpful as an overview. I would hope Adams will engage all solar consumers in an open dialogue of collaborative interest and value.

The recent inclusion of battery backups (e.g., Tesla Power Walls) in the Federal Tax Incentive Program could enhance Adams Electric's ability to reap maximum benefits from solar producers during the highest demand times, which I understand are hot, humid days between 2 and 7 p.m.

### **Rich and Debby Luquette, Liberty Township, Adams County; members since 2015**

**Q:** *When did you install your photovoltaic system?*

**A:** Our system was installed in 2017. It became operational on May 10, 2017.

**Q:** *What system do you have?*

**A:** Our system consists of 33 rooftop-mounted panels with a rating of 11.2 kW. The panels are divided into two strings, each feeding a separate inverter. The system was sized to generate approximately 100% of our projected annual power consumption.

**Q:** *What prompted your decision to install solar?*

**A:** Environmental stewardship is the primary driver behind our decision to install solar. Solar provides clean, renewable energy while reducing our dependence on fossil fuel. Secondly, installing solar has proven an economically sound investment for us.

**Q:** *Would you do it again?*



**INTERCONNECTED:** The home of Rich and Debby Luquette, located in the co-op's Gettysburg District, has 33 rooftop-mounted solar panels.



**SUNNYSIDE UP:** Members Mary and Ed Franco show off their rooftop solar array, located in our Shippensburg District.

**A:** Absolutely, although I would change the system design approach. The system was designed with the goal of optimizing economic return. In retrospect, I would seek a design that minimizes the cost per kW output. In my case, I could have added three additional panels without changing the inverters or other parts of the system.

**Q:** *What surprises did you find along the way?*

**A:** Probably the most interesting and unexpected "feature" of the system is the avalanche risk that follows a significant snowfall. A heavy accumulation of snow on a shingled roof tends to stay in place as the snow melts. Solar panels have a glassy surface that lacks the friction to hold back a heavy snow load. As the snow melts, the volume of snow covering the panels can suddenly slide down, clearing the panels in an avalanche event. We've learned to keep the avalanche target area clear. Snow guards are available for panel arrays to limit avalanche risk. The good news: The avalanche cleared the panels of snow allowing them to resume generating power.

**Q:** *What's the greatest benefit and/or drawback?*

**A:** Following the stated motivation for installing solar, the major benefits are the shift to renewable energy coupled with lower energy costs over the life of the system. Additionally, research indicates residential solar installations increase home values. Currently, we have not experienced any notable drawbacks.

**Q:** *What else would you like to share?*

**A:** Advances in small-scale electrical generation and storage are changing the landscape of the traditional approach to electrical distribution. Within the Adams Electric community, members can install their own alternative energy sources and storage. These systems provide opportunities for the co-op to reduce external generation demand during peak hours. Properly configured storage systems can be tapped to limit peak loading. Simultaneously, this changing landscape imposes challenges from distribution system design and maintenance to equitable billing. 📍

# Points to Consider Before Installing Rooftop Solar

“FREE ENERGY FROM THE SUN and lower electric bills ... Where do I sign up?”

The benefits of installing rooftop solar panels may seem like a no-brainer, but the reality is not every home (and homeowner’s situation) is always right for solar.

There are several factors to consider before pulling the trigger on a rooftop solar system, like determining if your home will receive enough sun to achieve your goals, finding the right contractor, negotiating contracts with your contractor and other important details.

Investing in solar for your home is a major decision. If you’re considering rooftop solar, Adams Electric Cooperative can help.

Here are eight questions to consider before installing rooftop solar panels:

- 1. What are my goals?** If your primary goal is to save money on electric bills, you may be able to achieve this by identifying areas of the home for maximum energy savings. Request a copy of the “101 Ways to Save Energy” brochure from Adams Electric.
- 2. Is my roof suitable for solar?** Your roof should be in good condition before installing solar panels. If your roof is old and in poor shape, it may need to be replaced before panels can be mounted. Additionally, your roof should receive a lot of sun to make the most of a rooftop system. Consider how much sun (and shade) the roof receives and if any trees will need to be removed. Solar panels perform best when facing south, so keep this in mind as you think about where the panels will be mounted.
- 3. How long will I own the home?** If you’re considering rooftop solar, you’re likely planning to stay in the home for several years. But if you plan to sell the home at some point down the road, consider that not all potential buyers will want to maintain a rooftop solar system. If you enter into a contract to lease the system, carefully review the terms and what those mean if you decide to sell the property.
- 4. Lease or purchase?** Purchasing a rooftop solar system outright is expensive, which is why many homeowners opt to lease their solar panels. However, federal tax credits may help cover some of the costs for a new system. If you do lease, make sure it’s a “true lease,” and not a third party power supplier. Most options locally are owned, because few installers in our area are offering a true lease. Regardless of how you decide to finance the solar system, make sure you get several quotes from qualified contractors.

Speaking of contractors, there are several factors you’ll want to discuss with them upfront:

- 1. Can the contractor provide up-to-date documentation?** Be sure to request proof and documentation of the contractor’s licensing, permitting and other credentials. Comb through company reviews, check the contractor’s status with the Better Business Bureau, etc. Do your homework on the front end, and don’t sign a contract at your first meeting.
- 2. Does the contract seem reasonable and fair?** If you decide to hire a contractor to install rooftop solar, carefully read the fine print of the contractor’s contract. Do the system performance calculations seem realistic? Does the project timeframe sound reasonable? Does the contract fit within the guidelines and requirements of an Adams Electric Cooperative interconnection and power purchase agreement? Negotiate the contractor’s contract terms to fit your goals and needs.
- 3. Who will maintain the solar panels?** Determining who is responsible for maintaining the solar panels will depend on who owns the system. If you lease the system from a solar installer, it may be their responsibility. Periodically, solar panels need to be cleaned as dirt and debris can impact panel productivity. Parts may also need to be replaced, so it’s important to know who will take on these responsibilities.
- 4. Will my solar plans work with Adams Electric?** Finally, if you decide to install solar, and you want the system to be interconnected to the electric grid, so you’ll need to sign an interconnection agreement with the cooperative. We can walk you through the steps, including how our solar rates and fees work. Set up an appointment with an energy use specialist at Adams Electric by calling 800-726-2324.

For some homeowners, solar panels are a great way to help the environment and save on electric bills, but there are many factors to consider before diving in and installing a system. Only about 10 percent of Adams’ interconnections create a return. As with any major home project, do plenty of research upfront and contact the co-op first if you have questions or before you decide to move forward with installation. 📞

## SAFETY NEAR SOLAR

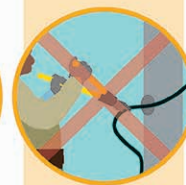
Like any other source of electricity, solar panels can pose potential hazards. Keep these safety tips in mind when you’re near solar panels.



Stay at least 10 feet away from the installation.



Never walk on solar panels.



Never cut any wiring to the solar panels.



Never touch broken or damaged solar panels.

## Co-op Survey Nets Strong ACSI Results

ADAMS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC., RECENTLY conducted a customer satisfaction survey, where more than 512 members were asked to participate. The responses were sent to the American Customer Satisfaction Index® (ACSI), a company that measures customer satisfaction across multiple industries throughout the United States.

For 2024, Adams Electric received an ACSI score of 89 on a 100-point scale.\* Adams Electric’s score is higher when compared to publicly measured investor-owned and municipal utility scores reported in the syndicated 2024 ACSI Energy Utility Study. These results place Adams 15 points higher than the average investor-owned utility score of 74, as well as 14 points higher than the municipal utility score of 75, per the industry ratings. For more information, visit [theacsi.org](http://theacsi.org) or check out the upcoming October issue of *Penn Lines*.

*\* Compared to publicly measured energy utilities in the ACSI survey of customers rating their own energy utility. Results based on data collected between July and August 2024. ACSI and its logo are registered trademarks of the American Customer Satisfaction Index, LLC. For more about the ACSI, visit [theacsi.org](http://theacsi.org).*



Compared to publicly measured energy utilities in ACSI® survey of customers rating their own energy utility. Results based on data provided by Adams Electric Cooperative, collected between July and August 2024. ACSI did not regulate the survey administration or sample size. ACSI and its logo are registered trademarks of the American Customer Satisfaction Index LLC. For more about ACSI, visit [www.theacsi.org](http://www.theacsi.org).

CORTNEY KNOTTS



**YOUTH TOUR:** In June, Adams Electric Cooperative sponsored seven high school juniors on the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. The group traveled with students representing other cooperatives in Pennsylvania and New Jersey to Washington, D.C. There, they joined high school juniors from across the country – also sponsored by their home cooperatives – to learn about the electric cooperative model, history and government. The students attended a Co-ops 101 class, toured monuments, including the Thomas Jefferson, Martin Luther King Jr., World War II, and other memorials, and experienced the changing of the guard at Arlington National Cemetery. During “Capitol Hill Day,” students met with legislative staffers and asked questions they had prepared. The group also toured the Holocaust Museum and Udvar-Hazy Air & Space Museum. Between tours, students traded and collected pins with teens from other cooperatives. Attending the 2024 Youth Tour from Adams Electric were, from left, Billing Associate Cortney Knotts (chaperone) and students Anthony Peluso Jr., Madeline North-Shelleman, Katelyn Hodges, Autumn Punchard, Elizabeth Morgan, India Lester and Persia Thompson.

MIKE FEATHERS



**OUT WITH THE OLD:** AUI Power contractor crews replace poles on the feed to the Blossville substation along McCrea Road in Cumberland County near Doubling Gap. Parts of this line are dual-circuit construction, meaning the feed to the Blossville substation runs on top of the poles and a distribution circuit runs along the bottom. The top circuit was de-energized and grounded during this system improvement job, in which 48 poles were replaced. The remainder of this line is scheduled to have poles replaced over the next few years.

MIKE FEATHERS



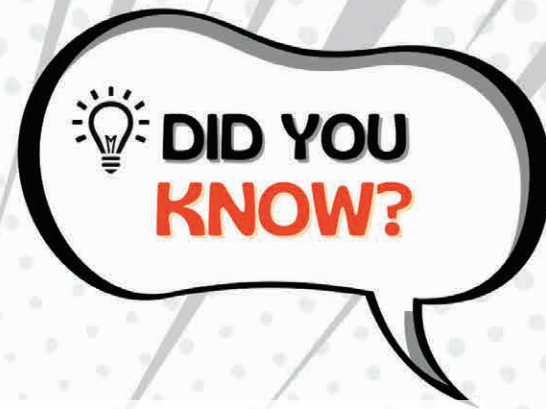
MIKE FEATHERS



**TEAM TRAINING:** In June, on-site training was provided to the co-op's four newest apprentices and a recently hired journeyman by three of the co-op's seasoned lead linemen. Each practiced simulated hotline rubber gloving procedures under de-energized conditions. The junior lineworkers were able to ask questions throughout the training and tried various methods to complete similar tasks. The lead lineworkers also offered detailed insights and instructions as tasks were being performed. From left, Third-Year Apprentice Wes Graham and Second-Year Apprentices Wyatt Taughinbaugh and Dru Hartman practice some of the skills they learned. Another training is scheduled for the fall.

# Co-op Spotlight

## Getting to know your employees and directors



### Andrew Kuykendall



**Who I am:** My role as a lineman at the co-op involves working on energized power lines. We are constantly upgrading the electrical system so we can provide reliable energy to our members. A typical day can involve replacing poles, hooking up new services or responding to outages. I've been with the co-op seven years.

**Family life:** Married to my wife, Becky, for nine years. We have two boys: Hunter, 9, and Caleb, 3. I love the outdoors, hunting, being outside, gardening and many more

things that always keep me busy. I also love going to our cabin in West Virginia.

**Co-op difference:** A cooperative serves its members. We are more reliable and not-for-profit. When it comes to a cooperative, we care about one another like family, including our members.

**Co-op future:** We will continue to provide reliable energy and take care of our members.

**Co-op stands out because:** Our reliable 24/7, 365-day-a-year service that is available when the power goes out.

### Andrew Mummert



**Who I am:** I have been an information technology specialist with Adams Electric for more than six years. I help co-workers with technical issues, replace and upgrade equipment, and work to protect our systems and data from harm.

**Family life:** I have a wife, three children and a dog. We enjoy the outdoors.

**Co-op difference:** Co-ops can focus on meeting member needs instead of maximizing profits.

### Dale Myers



**Who I am:** I was elected to the board of directors in 2018. I serve as secretary of the board, chair the Governance Committee, and I am a member of the Executive, Budget and Finance, and Strategic Risk committees. I am a liaison to the Scholarship Committee and the alternative board member to the Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association. I hold all National Rural Electric Cooperative Association certifications, including Director Gold.

**Family life:** I'm retired but busier than ever. I have five children and nine grandchildren and spend as much time as possible with them. With one daughter in Alaska and another in Georgia, that includes traveling. I enjoy hunting, gardening, and spending time cutting firewood, mowing grass, and maintaining the farm and woodland I own. I also

serve on the Manheim Township Planning Commission.

**Favorite part of the job:** I enjoy the interaction of a nine-member board: the planning, the discussion — sometimes disagreement — and the compromise. We have a very good board. I also enjoy it when members tell me how glad they are to be served by Adams Electric; it tells me we're doing something right.

**Co-op future:** Very challenging! The electric grid as we know it will change dramatically — electric vehicles, artificial intelligence, battery storage. We're also anticipating increased reliance on renewable energy and decreased dependence on fossil fuels, whether by government regulations or otherwise. However, with most of the cooperative's power originating from nuclear and hydroelectric, our future is bright.

