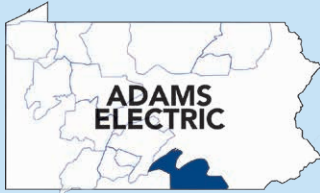




# Adams Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Glenn E. Bange, President**
- Nadine M. Hubner, Vice President**
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- David A. Frey**
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**Steve Rasmussen**  
CEO/General Manager

## 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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[Facebook.com/AdamsEC](https://www.facebook.com/AdamsEC)

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

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

## Where We're Headed



**STEVE RASMUSSEN**

**WE'RE IN A TIME OF IMMENSE CHANGE.** Everything, from how we cook our food to how we drive our cars, is now more energy-dependent than ever.

When demand goes up, opportunities for supply go down, and there's no way to prevent cost increases, especially when the rules for energy generation are changing.

What's the leading factor? This country lacks a strong and viable energy policy. We're in a tough spot.

Voices for Cooperative Power is an online platform for electric co-op members to work together to influence elected officials to make the right energy policy decisions. The grassroots network offers a unique perspective by advocating smart, co-op friendly energy initiatives.

We encourage our members to visit [voicesforcooperativepower.com](http://voicesforcooperativepower.com) and actively engage our legislators in the energy policy decisions that impact your cooperative and rural way of life.

As we look back over the last year, energy costs have been a never-ending battle. Generation, transmission, distribution — everything is going up. The good news is that we actually expected our power bills from Allegheny Electric Cooperative, Inc., our wholesale energy provider, to be higher.

Adams Electric's board took the position years ago that we do not make our margin on the energy supply portion of the bill, allowing us to pass any over-collection on power supply back to our members. We've been able to do this for 2025, which has allowed us to reduce what could have been an 8% increase next year to a 5.2% increase for those costs. The bad news is that, yes, we still must adjust rates for 2025. The average member, who uses around 1,250 kilowatt-hours of energy per month, should expect to pay about \$9.75 more each month next year. For specifics on next year's rate plan, go to page 12D.

Other carry-over items from this year, like supply chain issues, are also affecting next year's rates. A substation transformer that used to take nine to 12 months to arrive now takes 18 to 24 months lead time. But we still have to pay the so-called piper up front. That's a lot of money going out for less product coming in. Again, supply and demand: The cost of every truck, pole, and crossarm has gone up because the availability of products and the progress of production is going down.

But still we push forward. We continue to change out every meter on our system (about 6,000 a year) with a goal of completing that program within five years. We continue to invest in safety training for our employees. We continue to hire new employees as needed, but our staff is already relatively young following a large retirement pool in 2022.

We're going to do the best we can to minimize the impact of a changing energy industry to help you and your co-op weather the storm. If we can be of assistance to you, please don't hesitate to reach out to someone in our member services or energy use departments. It's our mission to provide safe, reliable power at competitive rates, and that's what we will continue to do. 

**STEVE RASMUSSEN**  
CEO/GENERAL MANAGER

## Bringing Back the Light

### Adams Lineworkers Help Restore Power in North Carolina

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

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

**SANTA CLAUS SPREADS THE JOY** of the holiday season through gifts this time of year, but he knows his hard work is capped at one night. Recently, nine cooperative employees were asked to spread their gift — the ability to restore electricity — to cooperative territories in North Carolina ravaged by Hurricane Helene.

In late September, Adams Electric Cooperative’s operations employees started their journey in Statesville, N.C., at Energy United and ended 17 days later in Lenoir, N.C., at Blue Ridge Energy. This was Second Year Apprentice Lineman Chris Gilbertson’s first time traveling outside the Adams Electric system to aid in restoration efforts, but he knew, “he better be ready to work!” — and work, they did.

According to the crew, which included eight lineworkers and one supervisor, their 16-hour days started at sunrise, ended at sundown, and included an hour-long commute from their hotel to the cooperative warehouse. Then there was an additional hour drive to various jobsites.

“We never even saw the town of Blowing Rock,” Lead Lineman Tony Spangler says. “It’s a beautiful area, but we were working during every daylight hour.”

Line Superintendent Mike Chamberlin describes the

area as steep, mountainous terrain, with deep ravines and river crossings, which required lots of climbing and setting poles. The eight Adams Electric lineworkers were divided into two crews, each guided by a representative from the host co-op. One of the four-man crews estimates it set more than 30 new poles during their stay.

“We worked on a lot of one-lane dirt roads, right along the side of the road,” says Ryan Gelnett, journeyman second class. “You could see 500 feet down. If you went over, the trees weren’t going to stop you; you were going down.”

Ty Hensley, journeyman first class, recalls someone referring to the Adams team as the “go-getters crew.”

“They joked we were always the last ones to come in and the first ones out,” Hensley says.

Luckily for those working, the weather during the line restoration couldn’t have been better.

“The temps were perfect, 70 to 80 degrees and sunny most days, then the temperatures dropped quickly in the evenings,” says Brandon Beard, line serviceman. “It made the long days more bearable.” (Speaking of bear: There may have been one hanging around the linemen’s hotel one night. There may have been a wayward pig on the prowl, too.)

Spending nearly three weeks away from their homes and families wasn’t easy. There were missed birthdays, anniversaries, weddings and plumbing leaks, but the hosting cooperatives made sure to take care of our team while they were away. Breakfast and a hot dinner were provided every day, as well as bagged lunches. Laundry service was available as needed; and help-yourself tables with snacks and hygiene products were always nearby. Locals even helped arrange for prescription refills and dry socks.

The Adams team put all of its focus into restoring power to those who had been without it for days. And the members of Blue Ridge Energy were beyond thankful.

“They were some of the most gracious people for what they were going through,” Spangler says.

“One guy dropped off pizzas — just drove by and handed them out the window,” according to Jake Strausbaugh, journeyman first class. “The franchise owner of Chick-fil-A drove by one day and gave us all sandwiches and just said thank you.”



SARAH FRANK

**THANK YOU:** Adams Electric, its members and those living in North Carolina affected by Hurricane Helene express their sincere appreciation to the Adams lineworkers who spent 17 days restoring power to devastated areas of the South. Front row, from left: Brandon Beard, Vic Brammann, Shane Atherton, Tony Spangler and Ty Hensley. Back row, from left: Chris Gilbertson, Jake Strausbaugh and Ryan Gelnett. Not shown is Line Superintendent Mike Chamberlin.

“There was even a restaurant that had a sign in the window ‘20% off for all linemen,’” Gelnett adds.

Adams Electric was not the only Pennsylvania co-op to send help to the South following the recent storms. In fact, as is the cooperative way, co-op principle No. 6 supports “cooperation among cooperatives,” stating: “Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional, and international structures.” Simply put: Co-ops are better when they work together.

“It was a great experience, and we’re ready to go again when we’re needed,” says Vic Brammann, lead lineman.

With the most experience of the crew who made the recent trek, Brammann was in Louisiana after Hurricane Rita, as well as Alabama, Georgia and other states. “This was a much rougher terrain,” he says, “but the same southern hospitality.”

He noted that Blue Ridge Energy was well-prepared for what it faced.

“Their warehouse was stocked, and they had everything we needed,” he says. “They would bring us full pole carts, crossarms, spools of wire and just drop them at various locations, so we or anyone could go and get what we needed to get the power back on.”

The Adams crew was prepared to be away for three full weeks, but was glad to return home to their loved ones a few days early, leaving the area once all Blue Ridge Energy members had power restored.

“My son cried when he saw the truck pull in,” says Shane Atherton, journeyman first class.

“And most importantly, everyone made it home safely,” Strausbaugh adds. 🚚



MIKE CHAMBERLIN

**LEGWORK:** Journeyman First Class Jake Strausbaugh, left, and Journeyman Second Class Ryan Gelnett re-string wire at the top of a pole.



JAKE STRAUSBAUGH

**TAKE TWO:** Line Serviceman Brandon Beard, left, operates a digger truck in North Carolina, while Journeyman First Class Shane Atherton works out of a bucket.



MIKE CHAMBERLIN

◀ **MUTUAL AID:** Journeyman First Class Jake Strausbaugh helps to restring downed wire that was torn down after Hurricane Helene wreaked havoc across North Carolina. Adams Electric crews responded with mutual aid to restore power.

# Co-op to Increase Rates in January

**EVERY FEW YEARS, ADAMS ELECTRIC** conducts a cost-of-service study that helps us review our rate structure to ensure rates are fair and that we are collecting adequate revenue. This study was completed in 2024, and we are experiencing a revenue shortfall. For this reason, Adams is planning to increase distribution rates in January 2025. In addition, the cost of electricity itself continues to rise, causing a need to raise the energy supply portion of your bill as well. These adjustments will take effect on bills mailed in February.

While we are never excited to share this type of news, we are thankful the increase is much lower than your neighbors served by an investor-owned utility (IOU) and that your electric rates overall will remain much lower than theirs, too.

For the average residential member of the cooperative who uses 1,250 kilowatt-hours of electricity per month, this will result in about a 5.2% increase — or about \$9.75 more per month. Your board tries to set rates only once a year so members can plan accordingly. Those members who use more or less than the average will see slightly different adjustments to their electric bill.

While our IOU neighbors (Met-Ed, Penelec, West Penn)

adjust their rates quarterly, we believe stability is key. Those IOUs are looking at a 15% to 30% fluctuating adjustment next year.

For our cooperative in 2025, an average of \$6 of the \$9.75 increase will be on the distribution side of the bill. This is to cover the rising costs of delivering power to you. The remaining increase will be on the energy supply portion of the bill, which is a pass-through from our wholesale energy provider, Allegheny Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Allegheny).

“Everything is going up — material costs, labor, right-of-way maintenance, inspections,” Adams Electric CEO/General Manager Steve Rasmussen says. “You name it, it costs a lot more today.”

The good news is the increase could have been a lot worse. Allegheny is predicting its own 5% to 7% increase for generating and purchasing electricity. However, the co-op over-collected for energy supply in 2024 because of stable market purchases. Because of this, the co-op board has chosen to use that money to offset part of the increase that would have otherwise been needed in 2025.

“In 2024, when we set rates, we set the wholesale power cost adjustment to collect for the expected shortfall in power supply costs we expected to be paying Allegheny,”

Rate Increase	Bill in 2024*			Bill in 2025*			Difference
Energy Charge	1250	\$0.082	\$102.50	1250	\$0.088	\$110.00	\$7.50
WPCA	1250	\$0.004	\$5.00	1250	\$0.001	\$1.25	-\$3.75
<b>Total Energy Supply</b>			<b>\$107.50</b>			<b>\$111.25</b>	<b>\$3.75</b>
Access Charge			\$39.75			\$42.00	\$2.25
Storm Reserve			\$1.25			\$1.25	\$0.00
Distribution Charge	1250	\$0.030	\$37.50	1250	\$0.033	\$41.25	\$3.75
<b>Total Distribution</b>			<b>\$78.50</b>			<b>\$84.50</b>	<b>\$6.00</b>
<b>Total Basic Charges</b>			<b>\$186.00</b>			<b>\$195.75</b>	<b>\$9.75</b>

\*Average based on 1,250 kwh for standard residential rate.

**COST OF SERVICE:** This rate adjustment illustration shows the rate increase for a residential co-op member who consumes on average 1,250 kilowatt-hours of power each month.

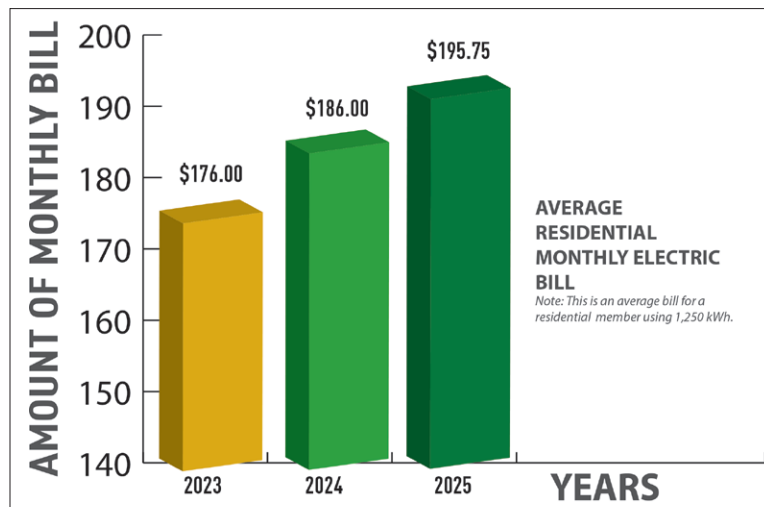
Rasmussen explains. “We ended up not needing all that revenue, due to rates being more stable than anticipated in 2024. Unfortunately for 2025, the cost of electricity continued to rise, so we’re using that over-collection to help offset some of this year’s larger increase. In looking further out to 2026, if electricity costs don’t decline, we will need another small adjustment for the cost of electricity then, too.”

According to the cost-of-service study, the co-op is also under-collecting for its residential access charge. The study suggests the cooperative should collect more than \$50 a month for that fee. While Adams is opting to increase the charge to only \$42 a month (a \$2.25 increase), members should anticipate gradual increases until that higher number is reached.

“What members need to understand,” Rasmussen says, “is that there are costs that need to be collected whether 1 kilowatt is sold or several thousand are sold. That’s just the cost of doing business.”

Since the access charge is included in the comparison with neighboring utilities, we still have lower overall residential rates than those utilities. Therefore, members should concentrate on looking at their electricity bill as a whole, instead of individual components of the bill.

The co-op does offer incentives to help offset the increase in rising rates. The U-Shift, U-\$ave program is one of our best incentive programs for members, and there are several others to help you save energy and money. For more information, call Adams Electric toll-free at 800-726-2324. 📞



**VALUE OF ELECTRICITY:** Over the last three years, the cost of electricity has risen by less than \$20 a month per average residential co-op consumer. For IOU customers, during the same time period, rates have increased more than \$30-\$50 per month.



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## 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 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.

### High School Scholarships for Seniors

If you are a high school senior and your parents receive service from Adams Electric, you are eligible to apply in the following categories:

- 1. Category A (school districts):** 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.
- 2. Category B:** Cyber, private, or home school, or other public school in Adams, Cumberland, Franklin, Perry, or York counties.
- 3. Category C:** Career/trade/technical, specifically pursuits of a vocational-technical education 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 (DFS) web portal at [adamscountydfs.org](http://adamscountydfs.org). Applications must be submitted between Jan. 1 and March 15, 2025, to be eligible for review and possible selection. You 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. 📞



## GIVE THE GIFT OF ELECTRICITY

If you would like to give the gift of electricity to a co-op member this season, we can help. The cooperative can either send a pre-purchased gift certificate to a buyer, or if the buyer would like to remain anonymous, the cooperative can send a certificate acknowledgement directly to a recipient. Please allow 10 business days for processing. Call 800-726-2324 for more information or to purchase a "Gift of Electricity" gift certificate.



## SAVE THESE DATES

**JOIN US FOR DINNER AND** presentations at a 2025 member meeting. Add these dates to your calendar today:

- ▶ **Gettysburg District:** March 17 at Wyndham Gettysburg
- ▶ **York District:** March 19 at Wyndham Garden York
- ▶ **Shippensburg District:** March 31 at The Beistle Company, Shippensburg

More information will be provided through a bill insert in early 2025. Reservations will open in the new year. Meetings will begin at 5:30 p.m. We look forward to seeing you! 📞

**1 MONTH LEFT TO APPLY**

**FOR THE TRIP OF A LIFETIME. JOIN THE 2025 YOUTH TOUR!**

Juniors who want to be a part of this fun, all-inclusive week in Washington, D.C., should apply online at [adamsec.coop](http://adamsec.coop) before Jan. 10, 2025. Interviews will be scheduled for Jan. 20 at the cooperative's headquarters.

**Adams Electric Cooperative, Inc.**  
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# Director Packets Now Available

**DO YOU HAVE 30 TO 40 HOURS** a month to read policies and attend committee or board meetings and do you enjoy occasional travel, all while learning and applying yourself to a leadership position in your community? Yes? Then you have what it takes to be a director of your local rural electric cooperative.

Candidate packets may be picked up through Jan. 30, 2025, by appointment only, at any Adams Electric office during regular business hours.

Director 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 reside in:

- ▶ **Zone 2: ADAMS COUNTY** — Townships of Butler, Franklin, Hamiltonban, Highland, Huntington, Menallen, Straban and Tyrone.
- ▶ **Zone 6: YORK COUNTY** — Townships of Codorus, East Hopewell, Fawn, Hopewell, North Hopewell, Shrewsbury, Springfield, Windsor, and York; and the Boroughs of Cross Roads, Fawn Grove, Jacobus, and Winterstown.
- ▶ **Zone 7: FRANKLIN COUNTY** — Townships of Greene, Letterkenny, Lurgan, Shippensburg, Southampton, and St. Thomas. **CUMBERLAND COUNTY** — Townships of Hopewell and Upper Mifflin. **PERRY COUNTY** — Township of Toboyne.

This year the membership will elect one director each from Zones 2, 6 and 7 to help direct the business of the cooperative for the next three years. Board responsibilities may include mitigating risk, setting rates, understanding power supply, strategic planning, making financial decisions, promoting the cooperative business model, gaining insights on political and environmental impacts, setting rates, and meeting member 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 of at least 15 Adams Electric Cooperative members on an official petition.

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. 30, 2025.

For more information, contact the

co-op's communications department at 800-726-2324. Learn more about being a co-op director at [adamsec.coop/director-responsibilities](https://adamsec.coop/director-responsibilities).



**DO YOU ENJOY READING THE** local news we share in *Penn Lines* magazine every month? Want to be part of the story?

Adams Electric Cooperative is looking for ideas to feature on our community pages in 2025 and beyond. The suggestions must feature a co-op member or business. We also highlight the special events of organizations supported by the cooperative through our donation program.

Do you know a local co-op member whose story we should share? Maybe they are a veteran, have a unique hobby, run a local festival or food truck, or have been to the Olympics.

Send a note to [communications@adamsec.coop](mailto:communications@adamsec.coop) and share your suggestions. You may just see your friend or neighbor featured in the new year.



## Tips for a Safe and Efficient Holiday Season

This holiday season, keep energy savings and electrical safety in mind.

### SAVE ENERGY

- Use smaller appliances like slow cookers instead of the oven.
- Lower the thermostat when hosting friends and family.
- Decorate with energy-saving LED lights.

### PRIORITIZE SAFETY

- Never leave unattended candles burning.
- Ensure all smoke alarms are working.
- When decorating, inspect all light strands and cords for damage.



# LIGHTING YOUR



# HOLIDAY SEASON

Wishing you a happy and safe holiday.



Adams Electric  
Cooperative, Inc.

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Adams Electric offices will be closed Dec. 24 and 25 and Jan. 1.