

Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

Bedford REC

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Office Hours

Monday through Friday
7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

From the General Manager



LED lightbulb rebates

By Brooks Shoemaker

BEDFORD Rural Electric is pleased to announce we are again sponsoring an LED lightbulb rebate program. We will provide a \$3-per-bulb rebate for each LED bulb you purchase. You may claim rebates on five bulbs, so the maximum rebate is \$15.

To be eligible for a rebate, the member must:

- ▶ Purchase LED lightbulbs between June 1 and Dec. 31, 2017,
- ▶ Submit a completed, signed rebate form to the cooperative office, and
- ▶ Submit an original sales receipt, with the purchase price of the bulb(s) highlighted, along with the original product barcode (UPC) from the box or packaging,

The rebate form, sales receipt and UPC may be mailed to or dropped off at the cooperative office. Once the information is verified, the rebate

will be credited to the member's next electric bill.

Why are we doing this? Well, while LED lightbulbs were once the wave of the future, it is clear that the future is NOW! Many retailers sell LEDs for \$5 or less. If you haven't converted your house, consider it. If you have done some, the program offers an opportunity to replace some of your more expensive bulbs, like florescent tubes or recessed bulbs.

CFL bulbs have proven to be relatively unpopular. In essence, they are a temporary solution to energy-efficient lighting. Many folks have never been satisfied with them. Concerns include a delay turning on and the time it takes to reach full brightness. Unless you leave them on for long periods at a time, they don't last as long as

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Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

LED Rebate Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Account Number: _____

Purchase Date: _____ Bulbs Purchased (Limit of 5): _____

Bedford Rural Electric has allocated \$3,500 for this program, which provides rebates on LED bulbs purchased between June 1 and December 31, 2017. Rebates will be available on a first come, first served basis until funds have been exhausted, or until December 31, 2017, whichever occurs first. Each Member is entitled to 5 rebates, regardless of the number of accounts they may have with us.

To claim a rebate, complete this form, and deliver it to our office, or mail to:

Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.
PO Box 335
Bedford, PA 15522

You must include your original receipt, with the purchase price circled, and the UPC Barcode from the package. A \$3 rebate will be applied to your account for each bulb purchased, up to a maximum of 5 bulbs.

Expert seamstress resident of Homewood at Spring House Estates

By Linda Williams

SHARON DONAHOE can't remember a time when she didn't like to sew. While packing for her move to a cottage at Homewood at Spring House Estates, she discovered some of the first dresses she made for her dolls.

A retired human resources specialist, Sharon has always sewed for relaxation. She made clothes for herself, her daughter, granddaughter, grandson, and husband, Smoke.

"He is very proud of his handmade shirts," she says.

Her interest led her to sewing competitions at the local fair, in national "Make it With Wool" events and the Pennsylvania Farm Show. There, she won "best of show" honors nine times.



SEWING SEASON: Sharon Donahoe holds two of her latest creations, a western wool shirt and a wool skirt.

The highlight, she recalls, was 2009, the year she, her daughter and granddaughter all modeled her creations. All took first place and "best of show." Another highlight was a wool baseball outfit created for her grandson, Mark, who is now an outstanding rifleman on the Everett High School team.

In 2017, Sharon brought home "best of show" for a dress she created for her daughter, Kristie Corle of Harrisburg.

"It was the most difficult thing I ever made," Sharon says.

She also won first place for a tailored garment and second place for a non-tailored garment.

THE RIGHT MATERIALS: Sharon Donahoe shows samples of different types of wool alongside pictures of herself in a prize-winning suit, her with her daughter, and her grandson in a baseball outfit.

Her favorite fabric is wool.

"Most people think of wool as heavy or scratchy," she says. "However, it comes in many different blends. It can be soft and very cool for summer clothing. It can be heavy and warm in the winter. Wool comes in all colors and patterns and true wool clothing is not found in run-of-the-mill clothing stores. It is the easiest fabric to work with as it molds easily."

Pendleton wool is her favorite fabric, and it is difficult to find. A few years back, she discovered it on eBay. A lady who lived in Oregon near one of the mills offered some great finds. Sharon bought so much fabric that the two became online friends. When Sharon and Smoke took a trip to the West, they got in touch with her friend, and the two spent some time together.

"We hit it off immediately," she re-

calls. “Our husbands also enjoyed each other’s company.”

Sharon’s sewing has led to countless friendships. Kathy Twigg is her longest sewing buddy. She also joined a group known as the Cumberland Neighborhood Group of the American Sewing Guild in Cumberland.

“This opened doors for all of the members,” she says. “We each brought our own area of expertise.”

She learned about serging and embroidery machines and began making more of what she calls “fun stuff.”

One of Sharon’s secrets to superb garments is pressing. She has judged 4-H and “Make it With Wool” competitions, and says that some outfits lose because of the lack of pressing. Over the course of her sewing years, she has worn out eight irons and admits they

TOOLS OF THE TRADE: Sharon Donahoe sits behind one of her sewing machines in her well-organized sewing room.

“Most people think of wool as heavy or scratchy. However, it comes in many different blends. It can be soft and very cool for summer clothing. It can be heavy and warm in the winter.”

just don’t get as hot as they once did. For this reason, she owns a presser.

“I spend as much time ironing as I do sewing,” she says.

Like everything, sewing has morphed over the years. Sharon started on an old treadle machine, advanced to a modern electric machine and now finds she can accomplish even more with the newer forms of sewing. She has worn out three machines.

Meanwhile, the Donahoe cottage has a room dedicated to her sewing

needs. She has a wall full of fabric that has been carefully categorized and catalogued by her daughter. There are racks of thread and a wall full of buttons. Two sewing machines are ready for work, as is her always-present iron and presser. And, always up to date, there is a computer ready and waiting with the latest in sewing ideas.

After her latest top honors, Sharon says she is seriously thinking of retiring from competition.

“It’s been fun, but I think it may be time to step down,” she says. “I’ve just reached an age when I don’t need any added stress.”

She does not make clothing for other people these days. Instead, she would like to get into judging and may go to judging school. While she has no desire to teach a big class, she is always willing to help one-on-one. Her granddaughter, Aleisa, has a talent for sewing, and Sharon wants to coach her. 🌟



From the General Manager

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advertised either. Finally, they contain mercury, which raises several health and environmental issues

Today's LED bulbs are six to seven times more energy efficient than conventional incandescent lights. They reduce energy use by more than 80 percent and can last more than 25 times longer. A 10-watt LED bulb provides about the same amount of light output (lumens) as a 60-watt incandescent bulb. So, it takes about the same amount of energy to operate six LED bulbs as it does to power one incandescent.

Quality LEDs are relatively cool to touch. Unlike compact fluorescent bulbs, LEDs work well in the cold and don't require a warm-up period. They also contain no mercury, so there are

no disposal issues as there are with CFLs. LEDs are also more durable than either CFLs or incandescents because the globe that surrounds the light-emitting diodes is typically made of translucent plastic instead of thin glass. Finally, and most importantly, LEDs provide a bright, high-quality light.

But don't take our word for it; try them out for yourself, and our rebate will help pay for them. You are eligible for the rebate even if you have taken advantage of our program in the past.

Funding for the rebate program comes through the Local Energy Efficiency Program (LEEP) offered by the Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association. LEEP is designed to assist Pennsylvania electric distribution cooperatives in supporting the development of local energy-efficiency and conservation programs. 

OFFICE CLOSING
Bedford REC's office will be closed on Tuesday, July 4, 2017, in observance of Independence Day.

OUTAGE REPORTING

In case of an outage...

- 1 Check your fuses or circuit breakers.
- 2 Check with your neighbors, if convenient, to see if they have been affected by the power failure.
- 3 Call the 24-hour number, 623-7568, OR call 800-808-2732* during office hours.

**(Please help us save money – only use this number if toll charges apply.)*

Please give the person receiving the call your name as it appears on your bill, your telephone number and your map number if known. Any specific information about the outage will also be helpful in pinpointing the problem.

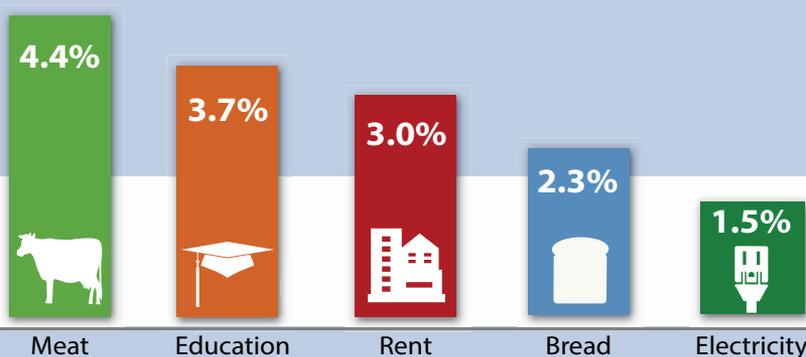
**To report an outage call:
(814) 623-7568**

During widespread power outages, many members are calling to report power failures. You may receive a busy signal, or in certain cases your call may go unanswered. This occurs in after-hours outages when the office is not fully staffed. Please be patient, and try again in a few minutes.

Electricity Remains a Good Value

The cost of powering your home rises at a slower pace than many of your typical expenses. Compare the average price increase of these expenses each year over the last five years, and the value of electricity shines.

 **Average Annual Price Increase**
2010-2015



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index