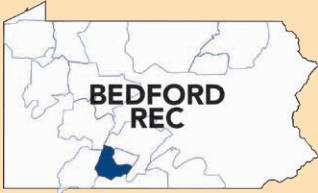


Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

BEDFORD REC

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Bedford, PA 15522
814-623-5101

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OFFICE HOURS

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

Grow Your Summer Energy Savings



BROOKS SHOEMAKER

ONE OF MY FAVORITE THINGS about summer is the abundance of fresh, homegrown food, whether it's shopping at the local farmers market or sharing garden tomatoes, corn and beans with a neighbor. It's amazing how just a few seeds, some fertilizer and water can turn into a bounty.

When I think about energy efficiency, I think about that bounty of food, and how with just a few simple actions, you can use less electricity and reap the rewards of energy savings. You don't need to be a farmer to know that plants need water — just like you don't have to be an engineer to know that adjusting the

thermostat or turning off lights can reduce your monthly electric bill.

In fact, if you read *Penn Lines* regularly and follow Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) on Facebook, you know there are a lot of things you can do at home to save electricity and money.

When summer temperatures rise, so do energy bills. Here are a few ways you can reduce energy use and grow your summer savings:

- ▶ Raise your thermostat. The smaller the difference between the indoor and outdoor temperature, the more you'll save.
- ▶ Install window coverings like blinds or light-blocking curtains to prevent indoor heat gain during the day.
- ▶ Seal leaks with caulk and weatherstripping around windows and exterior doors. Air leaks force your air conditioner to work harder and run longer than necessary.
- ▶ Run ceiling fans for additional cooling but turn them off when you leave the room.
- ▶ Lower your water heater thermostat to 120 degrees to reduce standby heat loss.
- ▶ Add or replace insulation. This is a more costly project that may require a professional's help, but it's an effective way to decrease heat flow, which impacts energy use in winter and summer. Older homes may need additional insulation to either replace older materials or meet newer efficiency standards. Contact a qualified installation specialist if you suspect your home's insulation levels are inadequate.

I'd also like to share a few ways we're here to help you save not only during the dog days of summer but also throughout the year. One of the great things about being part of our cooperative is that we're locally owned by you, our members. So instead of making profits, we can focus on helping our community. That's why we've developed incentives and programs to help you keep your money in your wallet.

Bedford REC has several rebate programs to help keep money in your pocket when purchasing energy-efficient equipment like heat pumps, water heaters and air conditioners. In fact, most Energy Star®-rated appliances qualify. Many of our rebates can be claimed by simply filling out a form. Find a list of our rebates at bedfordrec.com/rebates.

Finally, sometimes paying an electric bill that fluctuates from season to season can be challenging. The cooperative offers a levelized billing option that

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'You Don't Buy Ice Cream by the Ton, So Why Buy Stone by the Scoop?'

GARY DIEHL, MEMBER SERVICES MANAGER

WELCOME TO JUNE, WHEN SPRING transitions into summer, and projects appear on your “honey-do” list so rapidly you feel as if you will never see the light at the end of the tunnel.

When June hits in Pennsylvania, time really does seem to whiz by, and if you don't have your projects lined up just right, you'll blink, and the snow will be starting to fly. Speaking of a jam-packed schedule, I feel fortunate to have been given a little bit of time to chat with a couple who has a full agenda year-round.

Recently, I sat down with the husband-and-wife team of Sean and Vicki Parker — longtime members of Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) — to discuss their two businesses. In 2001, Sean started Parker's Excavating & Contracting (PE&C). Essentially a self-taught businessman, he has an affinity for numbers and zero fear of good, old-fashioned hard work. Sean handles most of the number crunching and provides quotes himself — face-to-face nearly all the time.

While he reads his text messages diligently, Sean rarely, if ever, sends them. Sean prefers to sit down with potential clients to go over all the details.

An excellent team

Speaking of details, that's Vicki's forte. She wasn't exactly sure what her title should be concerning the businesses,

but as we talked, it became abundantly clear she was the office manager and customer service rep all rolled into one. With a background in proofreading technical publications, she ensures no errors make it past her desk. The couple's strengths combine to make an excellent team.

When it comes to time in the field, Sean is a one-man crew with many skills. His excavation business has dozers, mini-excavators, skid steers, tri-axes and more. In terms of site prep — road building, drainage and anything excavation related — he can certainly move some dirt.

If Sean has jobs that require him to subcontract, he only uses select outfits — JSR Quality Construction, for instance. Sean also performs different types of concrete work and construction. I knew of Sean's excavating expertise thanks to a small job he performed for me and a family member, but I was not aware he had so many other skills. His expertise has been honed over the course of his career, which started as young boy doing masonry work.

Fast forward to November 2023. If you head to the outskirts of Bedford REC's service territory — just a stone's throw from our substation off Route 96 in Lovely— there is a picturesque dairy farm owned by Marlin Heisey, a good friend of Sean and Vicki. On one section of the farm is a lot that once housed a landscape supply business. This is where the Parkers began laying the foundation for HF Stone & Mulch (HFS&M).

Founded in faith

The success of the excavation business can be attributed to hard work and elbow grease, but that's not the only reason. Sean and Vicki leave no doubt in conversation

A STRONG PAIRING: Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative members Vicki and Sean Parker stand next to a pair of trucks used for their businesses, Parker's Excavating & Contracting and HF Stone & Mulch.



that God was the driving force behind the past 23 years and counting. They prayed and prayed before deciding to leap into the new business. The “HF,” for instance, stands for “Have Faith,” and on April 1, 2024, they launched their business.

When it comes to all things related to landscape and stone, HFS&M has you covered. The business carries all sizes of crushed limestone, as well as dust and driveway surface aggregate, or DSA. HFS&M stocks decorative stone and river rock in pea-gravel size all the way up to oversized — between 3 inches and 6 inches — along with 3-inch sandstone and red rock. If your home or business needs dyed or undyed premium mulch, mushroom or garden soil, or screened and unscreened topsoil, the Parkers have those, too.

HFS&M offers single-axle and tri-axle deliveries of all tonnages, and they’ll tailgate for free. If you visit in person, you’ll be greeted and subsequently loaded by HFS&M’s full-time employee, Eric, who is Sean’s brother. To ensure you get what you’re paying for, all stone products, screened and unscreened topsoil, and sand are weighed and sold by the ton.

“You don’t buy ice cream by the ton, so why buy stone by the scoop?” reads HFS&M’s business cards. The Parkers credit the quote to their farmer friend, Marlin Heisey.

By the time this article appears in *Penn Lines*, I’m guessing most of our membership is deep into the seasonal task of beautifying their home or business. If you need landscaping products or excavating services, check out PE&C’s and HFS&M’s Facebook pages for more information.

Better yet: Stop by in person and check out what the Parkers have to offer. 📍



HAVE IT ALL: HF Stone & Mulch carries all sizes of crushed limestone, dust and driveway surface aggregate, decorative stone, river rock, sandstone, red rock, yellow sand, dyed and undyed premium mulch, screened and unscreened topsoil, and more.



DOWN ON THE FARM: HF Stone & Mulch, owned by Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative members Vicki and Sean Parker, shares a border with the Heisey Farm, above, owned by another cooperative member, Marlin Heisey. Below: Sean Parker is building a new scale house and main office at the couple’s stone and mulch business. The scale will accommodate a 53-foot trailer.



**FROM THE GENERAL
MANAGER & CEO**

Continued from page 12A

keeps your bill nearly the same each month. It is a great option, and we encourage you to call the office to learn more.

Most people don't know everything about electricity, and that's why we're here to help you. There are no investors making profits here — just knowledgeable people with local jobs, working for our neighbors to ensure electricity is available when you need it. Contact us, and we can work with you to find more ways to save energy — and money.

**Energy Efficiency
Tip of the Month**

Electricity used to operate major appliances accounts for a significant portion of your home energy use.

Here's an easy way to lighten the load on your clothes dryer. Before you dry a load of damp clothing, toss in a clean, dry towel. The towel will absorb excess water, shortening the drying time. If your dryer does not include an autosense feature to determine drying time, reduce the timer to about half of what you normally would. Also, remove the towel about 15 minutes after the cycle begins. Shorter drying times will extend the life of your dryer and save energy. 🔄

BROOKS SHOEMAKER,
GENERAL MANAGER & CEO

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, 814-623-7568, 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.

**Bedford REC offices will
be closed Thursday, July 4,
in observance of
Independence Day**

FARM SAFETY

POWER SOURCES

Make sure EVERYONE is trained on safe practices around power transmission. This includes you, your employees, seasonal workers, family members, and anyone else accessing your farm. Keep in mind:

- Bigger equipment allows farmers to cover more ground in less time; however, this can be a hazard when electrical infrastructures are nearby.
- Inexperienced, fatigued or distracted operators are more likely to come in contact with a power line or pole.
- Sources of electricity include power lines, electrical boxes, and damaged (non-grounded) guy wires.

If your equipment does hit a power line, pole, or guy wire, do not leave the cab. Immediately call 9-1-1, warn others to stay away, and wait for the utility crew to cut the power.



**Safe
Electricity.org**