

Valley Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives
serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

Valley Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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Guest Column



Paying attention to your use is key to avoiding high bills

By Doug Roles, *Vice President of Member Services*

OCTOBER is a month of transition. Leaves are changing. Temperatures are dropping. And the summer clothes are being packed away and their drawer space taken over by sweaters and flannel shirts. This month is also one of transition where energy use is concerned.

October is National Energy Awareness Month and a good time to think about how energy use changes with the seasons. Right now, consumers are switching from cooling needs to the heating needs of winter months. Chillier weather will also cause people to spend more time indoors, leading to increased energy use. Keeping an eye on consumption and finding no-cost or low-cost ways to conserve can keep you from unexpected high bills.

For nearly everyone, the electric bill is a top priority in the household budget. After all, electric service powers other services and amenities. In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, many consumers have had to balance utility bills and groceries against less necessary items. But how can you tell what amount of your budget should be earmarked for electric service? What's the right size bill for you?

Unfortunately, there is no one-size-fits-all answer. That's because so many factors influence consumption. Some of these are family size, type of HVAC equipment, age of your house and efficiency of appliances. Another factor, which is not easily measured, is the extent to which a person is willing to go to lessen use.


For most people, a reasonable

approach to a reasonable bill is to just look for the small savings that add up over time. A simple starting point is to turn off lights and fans in vacant rooms. Since heating and cooling accounts for about half of the average utility bill, turning the thermostat down a few degrees when you'll be out of the house can lead to substantial savings.

Likewise, finding and fixing air leaks in your home will reduce waste. The Touchstone Energy pamphlet, "101 Easy Ways to Save Energy and Money," contains conservation tips you may have never considered. If you'd like a free copy, contact our member services department.

A great way to track your electric use is by using SmartHub, our electronic bill pay platform. Having your consumption history at your fingertips helps you see your highest-use months and plan accordingly. Look for it in the App Store or go online to valleyrec.com.

You may also want to consider levelized billing. Members who have been served by Valley REC for at least a year can enroll in this program to smooth out monthly electric bills. The program does not guarantee that your monthly bill is always the same amount, but it does spread the cost of your highest-use months over the bills for your lower-use months.

More energy-saving tools are available under the "Save Energy" tab of our website. And members are always welcome to call us with their questions. We'd be happy to help you conserve energy, during Energy Awareness Month and all year long. 

Co-op Connections Card, your link to savings

As a Valley Rural Electric Cooperative member, you can use your free Co-op Connections Card or key fob to receive valuable discounts at the local participating businesses listed on these pages, as well as at more than 90 national retailers.

Keep this directory handy to identify local participants. Also, keep an eye out for the Co-op Connections Card decals on doors or cash registers where you shop.

To see an up-to-date list of participating businesses and their discounts, visit valleyrec.com and look for the Co-op Connections Card icon on the homepage. New discounts are added all the time!



We're a participating business

AUTOMOTIVE/MOTORCYCLE

Calkins Auto

12951 Ferguson Valley Road, Burnham
Offer: 50% off tire rotations.

Huston Ford Motor Company

10719 William Penn Highway, Huntingdon
Offer: 10% discount (max. discount \$50) on parts and labor; cannot be used with other specials or body shop repairs.

J & P Auto Mart

1906 Pleasant Valley Blvd., Altoona
Offer: \$1,000 off purchase of any vehicle. Limit one per vehicle. Can't be combined with any other offer/sale. Not applicable for prior purchase.

Keystone Kawasaki Yamaha

16432 Dunning Highway, Duncansville
Offer: 5% off on parts and accessories. Best possible deal on new or used units. Must present card before purchase.

Pro-Trans

2400 Commercial Blvd., State College
Offer: 5% off transmission service and repair.

Route 26 Automotive

8413 Anderson Lane, Huntingdon (on Route 26N past former Valley REC building)
Offer: 15% off oil changes.

Steve Seltzer Honda

433 Sabbath Rest Road, Altoona
Offers: 50% off labor on motorcycle or scooter inspections. 15% off regularly priced parts and accessories. Free gas can with purchase of Honda power equipment (up to \$40 value). Extra year of Honda care on purchase of new motorcycle, ATV or scooter.

CONTRACTORS/BUILDING SUPPLY

Adams Electric, Inc.

870 31st St., Altoona
Offer: 10% off electrical estimates.

Center Region Stone Supply

3462 Birmingham Pike, Tyrone
Offer: 10% off retail prices on Appleridge Stone, FireRock fireplaces and Holland grills.

Central Penn Patio & Awning

321 Park Road, Mount Union
Offer: 3% discount.

Dennis A. Heeter, Heating & A.C.

7583 Bridge St., Alexandria
Offer: \$100 off installation of new heating or cooling unit.

Fink Brothers Supply

961 Pennsylvania Ave., Tyrone
Offer: 20% off in-stock PPG paints.

G. B. Wineland & Son, Inc.

201 S. Railroad St., Martinsburg
Offer: 5% off Polaris insulated doors and/or 5% off five or more Polaris windows.

Gary's Homes, Inc.

13270 Lincoln Highway, Everett
Offer: 10% discount on parts purchased in our parts store.

ImPressive Floors, Inc.

118 S. Richard St., Bedford
Offers: 10% off any cash-and-carry item from the store. \$20 off any ordered special materials 144 sq. ft. or more. \$20 off any two or more Hunter Douglas window treatments. These offers cannot be combined with any other offer.

Joseph T. Berrena Mechanicals, Inc.

279 Standing Stone Ave., Huntingdon
Offers: 20% off Hydroflow S38 chemical-free water treatment device. 10% off parts and service.

Lewistown Floor Company

518 W. 4th St., Lewistown
Offer: 10% off any carpet purchase over 450 square feet (50 square yards).

Mount Union Lumber & Supply, Inc.

114 W. Poplar St., Mount Union
Offer: Receive a \$200 rebate on the purchase of any one of the following Fujitsu mini-split units: 9RLS3Y, 12RLS3Y, 15RLS3Y, 18RLXFZ Dual-headed unit, and 24RLXFZ Triple-headed unit. Please notify MULS, Inc. at the time of purchase about the card.

PJs Hearth & Home Heating

2447 Quaker Valley Road, New Paris
Offer: 5% off anything in the store, including installations and cleanings.

Rick Worthy Contracting, Inc.

10321 Sugar Grove Road, Huntingdon
Offer: 5% discount.

Superior Floorcoverings & Kitchens, LLC

254 E. King St., Chambersburg
Offer: 7% discount; cannot be combined with other discounts.

DINING/FOOD

Allegro Restaurant

3926 Broad Ave., Altoona
Offer: Buy one dinner entree and receive \$5 off the second dinner entree. Not applicable to alcoholic beverages, lunch menu, family-style menu and dinner-for-2 menu. Maximum value \$5. Not redeemable for cash.

Couch's Subs & Groceries

13605 Greenwood Road, Huntingdon
Offer: 5% discount on any menu item.

Doan's Bones Barbecue

3507 McAlevy's Fort Road, Petersburg
Offer: Free large fry with any purchase (must show card before order). \$4.95 value.

Fox's Pizza Den

128 W. Allegheny St., Martinsburg
Offer: \$2 off any large pizza.

Hobo's Restaurant

180 Hyndman Road, Hyndman
Offer: 10% off daily special or dinner entree (dine-in only).

J.P. Edward's Grill and Bar

203 S. Logan Blvd., Burnham
Offer: 10% off, excluding alcohol and specials

Jethro's, LLC

417 Parkview Lane, Altoona
Offer: 10% off. Not valid after 4 p.m. Fridays & Saturdays, on holidays or with any other discount; excludes tax, alcohol & gratuity.

Keystone Candies & Gifts

123 E. Pitt St., Bedford
Offer: Free peanut butter meltaway bar with any purchase of \$15 or more.

Queen City Fruit & Produce

125 E. Central Way, Bedford
Offer: 50 cents off product not already discounted.

Speck's Deli & Gourmet Pizza

12144 William Penn Highway, Huntingdon
Offer: 10% off menu-priced items; value

meals and promotions excluded.
Wild Amie's
300 Lowry Drive, McConnellsburg
Offer: 10% off your entire order.

ENTERTAINMENT

Holiday Bowl

11862 William Penn Highway, Huntingdon
Offer: Free shoe rental for cardholder.

Isett Acres Museum

11941 Stone Creek Ridge Road, Huntingdon
Offer: \$1 off admission cost.

Lincoln Caverns & Whisper Rocks

7703 William Penn Highway, Huntingdon
Offer: \$1 off all adult tickets during regularly scheduled tours. Not valid during special events or in combination with other discounts.

Rockhill Trolley Museum

430 Meadow St., Rockhill Furnace
Offer: Buy one ticket, get one ticket free. Not valid for special events.

HEALTH, BEAUTY & FITNESS

Angelina's Invigorating Hour

103 E. Beaver Ave., Suite 10, State College
Offer: \$5 off any massage service and/or product order, or gift card of \$35 or more.

HMJ PATCH Program

900 Bryan St., Suite 5, Huntingdon
Offer: Free quit tobacco program: free support, free resources, free nicotine patches/gum.

Huntingdon Vision Center, Ltd.

828 Washington St., Huntingdon
Offer: 5% off total bill when paid with cash/check at time of service (excludes vision plans).

Modern Family Dentistry

3195 Cold Springs Road, Huntingdon
Offer: \$75 off a new patient exam, cleaning and X-rays (must be a new patient of record).

S'Hair-Eng Styling Salon

139 Kelly Alley, State College
Offer: 10% discount on all chemical and color services.

HOME, GARDEN & FARM

Antietam Iron Works & Powder Coating, LLC

201 Lincoln Way W., Suite 100, McConnellsburg
Offers: Powder coating: 10% off order (for first-time customers). 10% off iron fence or railings (max. discount \$200). 10% off gift shop items. Must mention card when placing order.

BluAcres, LLC

1301 Allegheny St., Suite 112, Hollidaysburg
\$250 discount on pond dredging and permit plan. \$100 discount on wetland delineation.
CCI Cleaning Connection, Inc.

1107 Locust St., Chambersburg
Offer: Save 20% on initial service(s) with signed contract; save 10% on any other service. Not valid with coupon offers.

Chimney Doctor

268 Upper Snake Spring Road, Everett
Offer: \$20 off chimney sweep; \$50 off chimney repair.

Envinity, Inc.

25 Decibel Road, Suite 205, State College
Offer: \$100 toward a comprehensive home energy audit. Audit includes a blower door test, thermal imaging, a solar site assessment and a comprehensive report on all energy saving opportunities in your home.

Hines Feed Store

210 S. Juniata St., Hollidaysburg
Offer: 5% off excluding feed and fertilizer.

Kelsey Springs Landscaping

21 Buckingham Drive, Chambersburg
Offer: 5% off maintenance invoices (mowing, fertilizing, lawn service); 10% off new installations (including walkways, patios, ponds, planting beds).

M & T Vacuum Systems

515 Washington St., Huntingdon
Offers: Free estimate on vacuum tune-up or service. 10% off any new vacuum.

Mid State Chimney Sweeps, LLC

595 Calhoun Road, Everett
Offer: \$10 off any chimney cleanings; 10% off any chimney liner installed.

Mill Hill Farm Supply, Inc.

161 Mill Hill Road, Williamsburg, and 618 Canal St., Williamsburg
Offer: \$5 off any \$25 purchase.

Potted Memories Greenhouse

5118 Piney Creek Road, Williamsburg
Offer: 10% off purchase of \$50 or more.

Raystown Decorator Fabric

7163 William Penn Highway, Alexandria
Offer: 20% off fabrics in stock.

Roberts Four Season Power Equipment

613 N. Logan Blvd., Altoona
Offer: 5% off purchase of new mower.

Stoudnour Petroleum, Inc.

8853 Raystown Road, Saxton
Offer: 1 cent per gallon discount.

OFFICE/PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

D-Signs

2816 U.S. Highway 522 South, McVeytown
Offer: 10% off all purchases.

Ellis Office Supply Inc.

1640 E. Pleasant Valley Blvd., Altoona
Offer: 10% off any supply order of \$50 or more.

Film Center (The)

3415 Pleasant Valley Blvd., Altoona
Offer: 50 4x6 photo-lab quality prints from your digital camera for just \$10, next-day pickup required.

Huntingdon Offset Printing Company

1431 Oneida St., Huntingdon
Offer: Buy 500 full-color, one-sided business cards, get 500 free of the same card.

Julie's K-9 Kuts

14310 Croghan Pike, Mount Union
Offer: 10% off merchandise (except those sold on consignment) and 5% off all grooming services.

Kavazea Designs

398 School House Road, McVeytown
Offer: 10% off any new design service.

Manning Photography

560 Oak Lane, Tyrone
Offer: \$50 gift certificate (cannot be combined with other offers).

MJH Services

123 E. Pitt St., Suite 4, Bedford
Offer: \$10 discount on tax return preparation.

One-Stop Communications

126 Electric Ave., Lewistown
Offers: \$10 off any wireless phone and 20% off standard phone accessories.

Paul Prough Photography

59 Lower Country Club Road, Mount Union
Offer: 10% discount off all orders.

Stone's Notary Service

2183 Cow Path Lane, James Creek
Offer: 10% off one notarized document.

Tiny Tots Childcare and Learning Center, LLC

22965 Croghan Pike, Shade Gap and 55 N. Riverside Drive, Mount Union
Offers: 5% discount to families that are enrolled Monday – Friday. \$25 per child for date night care or “Parents Night Out.”

RECREATION/SPORTS

Bear Creek RV

17481 Raystown Road, James Creek
Offer: 10% off regular-priced items

Chambersburg Skydiving Center, Inc.

3506 Airport Road, Chambersburg
Offer: \$10 off any student training jump: tandem, static line or accelerated free-fall.

Freedom RV Rentals

360 Travelers Road, East Freedom
Offer: 15% discount.

Reed Defining Taxidermy

207 Holly Acres Road, Tyrone
Offer: \$25 off the purchase of any mount or service.

Saxton Outdoor Supply

10520 Raystown Road, Saxton
Offers: 15% off any in-stock bait. 10% off any in-stock Carhartt item (one item only discounted) per purchase.

RETAIL

Franklin Frames

911 Logan Blvd., Altoona
Offer: 5% discount on custom framing orders.

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Co-op couple built new Fulton County restaurant on faith, friendship

By Doug Roles

Vice President of Member Services

ANNE MARIE Hollinshead used to greet her gourmet eatery patrons through the take-out window of an 8x24-foot trailer. Now, she can visit with Wild Annie's followers tableside in a spacious new hillside restaurant.

Anne Marie and her husband, Eric — Valley REC members in Harrisonville, Fulton County — operated the food trailer from April to September, 2013-2018, at the Antietam Iron Works parking lot in McConnellsburg. Each October, they would also hit the road, trailer in tow, as a food vendor at area fall festivals.

Running a food trailer served as a practical way to determine if the region could support a traditional storefront featuring Wild Annie's burgers, wraps and salads. By the fourth season, Eric and Anne Marie were confident in their following. The transition from concessionaires to restaurant proprietors ran into several challenges but never derailed because of Eric's determination and Anne Marie's steadfast belief in a favorite Bible verse.

"Wild Annie's was built on faith, food and fellowship," Anne Marie says. "It's not just food. It's about taking care of people and community."

Since opening July 27, Wild Annie's 24 employees have focused on serving great food and maintaining the friendly, festive atmosphere that had been cultivated during the food trailer years, when five employees filled orders and customers had their pick of tailgating or sitting at several plastic picnic tables.

"Our regulars are here now every day," Anne Marie says. "Being able to walk up to these people at a dining room table has brought Eric and me a lot of joy."

Anne Marie is a Washington state native whose family moved to California for her dad's job. Eric, a Harrisonville native, joined the Marine Corps after high school and was stationed at Camp Pendleton when he met Anne Marie.

"I had a high school classmate who



was at Camp Pendleton, and when he would get leave to get off the base ... he would bring along this guy from back East," she remembers.

After his enlistment, Eric and Anne Marie moved back to Harrisonville and married. She has always had dual interests in athletics and cooking. Her "Wild" moniker comes from her father, Jerry Books, because of her passion for outdoor sports. Jerry, who was part of Avalanche Rescue and National Ski Patrol, had Anne Marie on skis at age 3. She enjoys downhill slalom racing and has worked as a ski instructor at Whitetail Resort in Mercersburg. She has also coached soccer for McConnellsburg High School and Wilson College and enjoys kayaking. Eric works as the plant manager at Industrial Pallet in Greencastle and enjoys woodworking.

Layered between raising a family and work was the dream of a restaurant, but it was fraught with questions

LEFT: Eric and Anne Marie Hollinshead are pleased to serve customers at their new building. Wild Annie's had previously operated from a food trailer in McConnellsburg.

BELOW: The restaurant is located behind the All Things Automotive car dealership, off Route 522 just north of the Route 30 interchange.

for entrepreneurs living in a sparsely populated area. In 2018, they made the leap and purchased an eight-acre parcel. The food trailer was sold for a down payment. Trees were cleared and the rope mock-up floorplan they had laid out in their back yard inched toward reality.

Eric and Anne Marie had a cheerleader in Jerry. He and his wife, Mary-Ann (Anne Marie's mother), moved to Harrisonville after retiring. Area residents will recall he ran a Christmas tree farm near his home and was active in community groups.

Anne Marie, Eric and all their family had high hopes for a spring 2019 opening. Sadly, Jerry passed away unexpectedly on April 7, 2019, in the midst of the project.

"He was our biggest fan," Anne Marie says. "He was so proud of this restaurant."

In addition to the blow to the family, Anne Marie and Eric found themselves bogged down in the state Department of Environmental Protection permitting process as the groundwater well had to be redrilled to a deeper depth and the size of a stormwater runoff basin was renegotiated. The offices of state Rep. Jesse Topper and state Sen. Judy Ward assisted the Hollinsheads in navigating

the process. But then the coronavirus arrived in the U.S., and construction shut down for seven weeks. The project ended up taking a whopping 27 months.

Eric recalls he and Anne Marie knew they would face challenges. But he says that once their decision was made to move forward there was no going back.

"There were setbacks,



sure,” Eric recalls. “But it wasn’t going to beat us.”

“He always says, ‘No whining, no excuses. Over, under, around or through, we don’t quit,’” Anne Marie agrees. “Even though there were some pretty rough, dark days.”

The result of their persistence is the newly completed pole building structure with a capacity for nearly 100 customers (current COVID-19 restrictions notwithstanding). Visitors are at once struck by the beautiful rustic barn interior and the homey atmosphere.

Restaurant customers will also notice the Wild Annie’s logo at several locations. The one imprinted on the floor inside the front door includes a reference to Psalm 16:11, which promises to put the faithful on the path of life and to fill them with joy. It’s a promise Anne Marie says has come to fruition.

Eric and Anne Marie’s path meant a fresh start. The only things they kept from the trailer were a commercial freezer, an ice bucket and their Wild Annie’s sign, which now hangs above the cash register.

The main dining area can seat

approximately 60 customers while seating is also available on the enclosed patio. A dining area on the right side of the building seats up to 25. It can be reserved for events and features a large-screen TV for presentations. A set of rolling barn doors serves as a partition.

The food trailer was a workhorse but not a comfortable work area. There was no air conditioning, no restroom or break room, and not a lot of space for the five to seven workers staffing it. The new building has all that and more and boasts a food prep area adjacent to the main part of the kitchen.

The large open space in front of the cash register easily accommodates takeout orders and was designed around the idea that the food trailer was carryout only.

“That’s how we got where we are,” Anne Marie says, “from people who stood in line, stood in the rain.”

The Hollinsheads’ grown children, Sarah and Dillan, frequently lend a hand at the restaurant, as they did with the food trailer. Family friend Mary Huston, who has worked with Wild Annie’s since the start, now serves as the restaurant manager.

Eric and Anne Marie give a lot of credit to local contractors. R.H. Bunch Construction served as the general contractor. G.M. Shearer Plumbing & Heating installed ductless mini-split systems. The restaurant’s stoves and a fireplace insert in the dining room are fueled by propane from Heller’s Gas. Metalworker Wayne Keefer framed the

restroom stalls and made the flagpole.

The dishes at Wild Annie’s are all homemade, so expect your order to take 20 to 30 minutes. One of the favorites is the Texas Hold ’Em burger, a six-ounce beef patty topped with cheddar cheese, crunchy fried onions and a slab of applewood bacon. Most food is sourced locally, with items coming from nearby Minestream Farm in Shade Gap (a Valley REC member) and Grace Farms. Wild Annie’s also makes its own condiments, sauces and house chips.

“I’m very excited about launching our dinner menu,” Anne Marie says, adding that one of her new staffers, Veronica Stone from McConnellsburg, is a recent graduate of Pittsburgh Culinary Institute.

Items still on the to-do list include building a rockery on the bank behind the building and incorporating a waterfall and herb baskets into the landscaping. Eric also wants to put up several large birdfeeders so that diners can birdwatch. And he wants to livestream trail camera footage to the TV monitor in the main dining room.

Additionally, he wants to complete several walking paths around the property and put in a picnic area. One of the paths will connect to the neighboring All Things Automotive car dealership property.

“We got a lot of vision, a lot of things we want to do,” Eric says.

Wild Annie’s is located on Lowry Drive, behind All Things Automotive, just north of the Route 30/Route 522 intersection. The restaurant can be reached by phone for takeout orders at 717-485-0847 or by email at wildanniesfood@gmail.com. 🌞



INVITING: Visitors can enjoy gourmet burgers, salads, wraps and a dinner menu in a warm atmosphere. Take-out orders can be placed online or by phone. Wild Annie’s is our newest Co-op Connections Card participant. Check out the listing on the previous pages for their offer and other discounts.

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Log Cabin Gallery Shop

Hartslog Valley Road, Huntingdon
Offer: 10% off the item of your choice.

Mount Union True Value Hardware

135 E. Shirley St., Mount Union
Offer: 10% off regularly priced items. Not valid on sales.

Prospector Jewelers

1514 Cove Lane Road, Martinsburg
Offer: 10% discount.

Raystown Electronics, Inc.

14188 Croghan Pike, Mount Union

Offer: Discount varies with product.

Trough Creek Candle Co.

17958 Cooks Road, Cassville
10% off in-store purchase of \$25 or more.

Vintage Art Glass & The Foxy Grape

9561 Main St., Huntingdon (Mill Creek)
Offer: Friends and family 10% discount on purchases.

Vintage Jewelry Chest

8493 Woodbury Pike, Hollidaysburg
Offer: 20% discount.

TRAVEL

Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel (The)

215 Innovation Blvd., State College
Offer: Complimentary guestroom upgrade (based upon availability).

Riley’s Bed and Breakfast

863 Washington Ave., Tyrone
Offer: Sunday through Thursday - 15% discount.