

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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Electricity is a Powerful Value Despite Inflation



DOUG ROLES

WE'VE ALL HEARD HOME ECONOMISTS and budget gurus explain how seemingly small purchases add up throughout a month and take away from efforts to manage money and fill a savings account. As inflation is increasingly in the news, now is a good time to take a good look at expenditures that may not make sense in an uncertain economy.

In May, the Federal Reserve reported that one in six Americans can't pay all their monthly bills, and inflation has made the financial lives of 65% of U.S. households worse. Those are some troubling find-

ings ... but do they change habits?

If you're like me, there are aspects of your life that become part of a daily routine. I get ready for work, get in my car and often grab a coffee or a breakfast sandwich on the way to the office. At lunchtime, I may drive to the nearest fast-food location and get lunch. Once I finally end the day at home, I stream an episode or two of my favorite show before bed.


As we all look for ways to save money, I began to think about my daily routine and how much value it provided me compared to the money I spent. A cup of coffee can cost several dollars. A fast-food combo with a burger, fries and a drink can set you back \$10. Netflix, Hulu and other such subscription services can run \$15 to \$20 per month. That information becomes all too painful when you figure out the annual costs.

But there is good news. When you're looking to cut costs, you also have to consider where you get the best value for your money. An obvious answer is electricity.

The average daily cost of electricity, nationally, is about \$4.57. The average monthly electric bill for Valley Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) members — specifically those with residential accounts — is about \$130. You could power your entire home every day for less than the price of a cheeseburger and fries! And electricity provides benefits we often take for granted. It goes well beyond short-term satisfaction by allowing us to charge devices, refrigerate food and run hot water, all in a comfortable indoor climate. Besides the privileges it affords, electricity has also remained relatively cost-stable even amidst rising inflation.

As a member-owned cooperative, Valley REC does everything in its power to ensure your costs remain reasonable and that electricity continues to be a great value for our members. It's not always easy, as there are several factors beyond inflation that impact the price of electricity — some within our control, but most beyond it.

The cost of electricity can fluctuate due to supply and demand, infrastructure investment, maintenance, and operational expenses. Weather patterns also affect both demand and generation capabilities, with extreme conditions leading to heightened energy use or disruptions. Government policies, such as subsidies for renewable energy or taxes and regulations on emissions, shape electricity costs as well. Your electric co-op considers all these aspects when adjusting rates, and because we're a cooperative, we consider the impact of those costs on our members as well.

As our community continues to rely on electricity for nearly everything in our homes, schools, hospitals, and businesses, we need it to be reliable and affordable. Rest assured: Valley REC always puts you top of mind and works each day to ensure electricity remains the best value for your money. 

DOUG ROLES

VICE PRESIDENT, MEMBER SERVICES

Valley REC's 2024 Annual Benefit Golf Outing Supports Three Children, Teen

DOUG ROLES, VICE PRESIDENT, MEMBER SERVICES

VALLEY RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE'S (REC) 2024 Benefit Golf Outing brought together co-op employees, golfers and donors to lend a helping hand to three area children and a teen who are facing serious medical conditions. The Huntingdon Country Club hosted the June 20 tournament, which featured a morning and afternoon flight.

A committee of employees from the co-op's corporate and district offices selects tournament beneficiaries each year and plans the golf outing. The co-op closes all four of its locations on tournament day so the entire employee team can support the event.

"Our tournament follows a best-ball format, which means a foursome of golfers works together as a team, and the tournament as a whole is a team effort made possible by our donors, golfers, and employees," says Valley REC President & CEO Rich Bauer. "The support this event receives from so many people never ceases to amaze me. We hope we've created a bright day in the journey of these families."

This year's tournament benefitted 6-month-old Keylan Smith of Mount Union; 3-year-old Isabelle Canedo of McVeytown; 14-year-old Quinton Morrow of Hopewell; and 2-year-old Waylon Oldring of Mount Union.

Supporting kids and families

Keylan was born in October 2023 with two heart conditions. At about 6 weeks old, he had a catheterization, and he may eventually need valve surgery. He also will need

surgery due to premature closing of a cranial suture in utero. Keylan has faced many challenges, including using a feeding tube. His parents are Tyler and Alexa "Sis" Smith of Mount Union. They say Keylan was born fighting and amazes them every day.

A few days before Christmas 2023, 3-year-old Isabelle, or Bell, as she's known, was diagnosed with leukemia as her parents, Jay and Kristen

Canedo, were preparing for the arrival of another baby at the end of March. The Canedos travel to Hershey for Bell's treatments. In January, she completed her first 30 days of chemo and responded well to the treatment.

Quinton, a football player and wrestler for Northern



ORANGE ON THE GREEN: A Valley Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) employee team – whose members were, from left, Adam Atherton, Brandon Clemens, Seth Glover and Eric Yingling – finishes play on a Huntingdon Country Club green during the co-op's annual benefit golf outing in June.

Bedford High School, developed mobility problems and experienced falls, which initially were thought to be from a hard hit in a football game. In December, he was diagnosed with two cancerous spinal tumors. He is undergoing radiation treatment and will later have chemotherapy. He will need spinal fusion surgery due to the initial spinal/tumor surgery, which required the removal of vertebrae material. Quinton's mother, Jen Morrow, says life has been "a whirlwind" since last fall.

Waylon spent the first few months of his life at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh due to a severe heart defect. He had two open-heart surgeries in 2022, and was doing well until October 2023, when he began losing weight. Tests determined he has liver cancer. Waylon is the son of Andrew and Nakesha Oldring.



Quinton Morrow



Keylan Smith

Money raised

The co-op's 13th annual event raised more than \$70,000. To date, Valley's golf tournament has raised approximately \$403,000.



WINNING TEAMS: Forty-eight teams registered for the Valley Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) 2024 Annual Benefit Golf Outing. Team VREC Booher, left, won the morning flight. The team of Valley REC employees consisted of, from right, Tink Bucher, Jason Wilson, Logan Booher, and Jason's son, Ian. Team Stricklers, right, won the afternoon flight. The team members are, from left, Ryan Strickler, Ed Strickler, Dave Fyock and Patrick Goodman.

Forty-eight teams registered for the day-long best-ball scramble. The first flight hit the course at 8 a.m., while the afternoon flight began at 1 p.m. The winning team for the morning flight was Team VREC Booher, whose members were Logan Booher, Tink Bucher, Jason Wilson and Jason's son, Ian. The afternoon flight winner was Team Stricklers, made up of Ryan Strickler, Ed Strickler, Dave Fyock and Patrick Goodman.

Players were able to purchase "cheats" — such as an extra swing or the ability to move a ball closer to the cup — as part of the fundraiser, which also included a silent auction and basket raffle of a wide variety of donated items.

All of Valley REC's employees helped to line up sponsorships and donations or assisted with tournament activities on the day of the event. Valley REC's previous tournaments have benefited a young girl with a brain tumor; a boy with a rare hereditary disorder; a cooperative lineworker; two high school classmates battling cancer; an adult who sustained serious injuries in a car accident; infants and toddlers with congenital conditions; a high school senior with a life-altering digestive disorder; and a young man who was paralyzed in a swimming accident. Valley REC plans to host its next tournament in June 2025. 📌



PLACE YOUR BIDS: The Oldrings — from left, Nakesha, Waylon and Sheila — pause for a photo at the Huntingdon Country Club in front of tables filled with silent auction items.



FOR YOU: Valley Rural Electric Cooperative Office Services Clerk Terri Brumbaugh, right, visits the Canedo family following the tournament to present Isabelle, center, with a gift. Isabelle is shown here with her parents, Kristen and Jay Canedo, and her brother, Judah.

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