
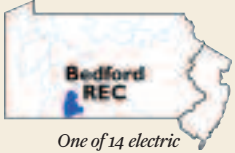


Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

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Website: www.bedfordrec.com

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OFFICE HOURS

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

FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

Wise investments in energy efficiency



by Brooks Shoemaker
General Manager

THE ECONOMIC uncertainty we're facing these days has many of us putting money into something we feel comfortable with: our homes. Making a few upgrades around the house generally pays big dividends. However, if the upgrades are cost effective and boost energy efficiency, the decision is a no-brainer.

Part of the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, better known as the "stimulus bill," provides a 30 percent personal income tax credit for energy-efficient improvements made to your personal residence. The credit, through the Internal Revenue Service, is limited to improvements placed in service during 2009 and 2010. The total \$1,500 credit is for both tax years combined. Also, the credit is non-refundable. This simply means that the tax credit may lower your federal tax liability to zero, but not below zero. So, while it can help boost any refund you receive, you won't receive a check directly for the credit amount. Regardless, it's a great deal!

The credit covers 30 percent of the cost of adding insulation materials and exterior doors, windows, skylights and roofs (both metal and asphalt) designed to help reduce a home's heat loss or gain. It also includes energy-efficient heating and air conditioning systems, hot water heaters and biomass stoves.


For weatherization-related work, the credit covers only the cost of materials. With heating, ventilation and air condi-

tioning systems, as well as biomass stoves, installation costs also count toward the credit.

So how does the math work out? Say you spend \$1,000 on new insulation. You would get \$300 back in the form of a tax credit on IRS Form 1040. If you spend \$3,000 to purchase a new HVAC system and have it installed, you would receive a \$900 credit. To take advantage of the program, improvements must have taken place after Feb. 17, 2009 (the day the stimulus bill was signed into law), and products must meet specific energy-efficiency criteria. Contact your tax professional, or visit www.irs.gov/recovery to review guidelines for eligible purchases.

Need money for college?

Bedford Rural Electric will award three \$1,000 post-secondary scholarships in 2010. To be eligible, a high school senior must be committed to continuing his or her education at an accredited post-secondary institution, and the parent or guardian's primary residence must be served by the cooperative. Applicants are required to submit a short, 300-word essay describing why they deserve a scholarship. A committee of cooperative members will select recipients based on scholastic achievement, financial need, extracurricular activities, work experience, and civic and community endeavors.

Further details and applications are available on our website, www.bedfordrec.com, or call the office for details. We will accept applications until 4 p.m. on March 1, 2010. 

Spring House Estates offers good life for seniors

BY LINDA WILLIAMS

BEDFORD COUNTY is an attractive location for retirees. With the low traffic there is also easy accessibility to larger cities. Quaint shops, festivals and concerts bring a bit of culture to the area. A UPMC medical facility provides care for ailments related to aging.

Spring House Estates, located near the hospital and the vocational-technical school, began construction on the county's first retirement community in 1996 by Tressler Lutheran and the hospital. Built on farm ground, the original spring house still exists on the property.

Spring House attracted seniors who, for one reason or another, were looking to move from their homes to a secure and cared-for location. It also attracted Homewood Homes, which purchased the estates in July 2007 and has since enlarged this retirement community. There are 31 cottages of various sizes and floor plans. Residents have a choice of one or two bedrooms and one or two baths. Each cottage has a one- or two-car garage and an airy and light sunroom.

The newest addition is an apartment complex that opened this year. These apartments offer a large one-bedroom



READY FOR RESIDENTS: A view of the outside of the new apartment complex at Spring House Estates.



WORKING OUT: Charlie and Thelma Diehl work out in the exercise room.



FAMILY AFFAIR: Charlotte and Harry Diehl, left, visit with his brother and wife, Charlie and Thelma Diehl. All are residents at Spring House Estates.

apartment or two bedrooms with one or two baths. Those on the first floor have a covered porch. Apartments on the second and third floors have scenic views of the county from a private balcony. Residing in the apartments gives residents access to the entire community center. The complex is decorated in rich attractive colors with coordinated art work and plush comfortable furnishings in the common areas. Each

apartment or cottage can be decorated as the resident desires.

Without stepping outside, those in the apartments have access to a small convenience store, library, beauty/barber shop, recreation room and restaurant. There is an internet/computer sta-



READING FOR PLEASURE: Joyce Mengel searches for a book in the new library.



PLAYING CARDS: Audrey Swope, Wilma Jean Redinger, Mereta Imes and Joyce Mengel enjoy a game of cards.

tion, postal service and a nurse to assist with wellness needs.

Brenda Bomblosky is the executive director and manages the entire operation while assisting with expansion projects. Jan Walent, a registered nurse, is the residence services director. There are 13 on the staff and more will be added as needed.

In an attempt to stay as green as possible, the community has 70 geothermal wells, 400 feet deep, to provide heat for all of the units.

According to Brenda, plans for the future include adding at least 50 more cottages and 60 more apartments.

“There are presently openings,” she says, “but they do move quickly.”

Cy and Anna Ritchey were the first occupants of the new apartment building. Some folks like it so well, they bring additional family. Such was the case with Thelma and Charlie Diehl. Charlie’s brother, Harry, and his wife, Charlotte, moved to the estates this past summer from the south.

Entrance age is 55 and average residents are in their mid-70s. Pets can also retire at Spring House with many residents bringing a dog or cat along with them when they move in. Residents must be able to take care of the pets, which must be neutered and have up-to-date shots.

Most people enter Homewood Spring House because of a carefree lifestyle. They no longer have to mow lawns, mulch, trim shrubbery, remove snow or repair their homes or appliances. Water, sewage, pest control, trash removal, taxes, insurance and cable are all included in the cost. Emer-

gency medical services are available 24 hours a day.

With the enlargement of the Bedford facility, more social activities will be added to the calendar.

There are affordable payment plans with either a life-lease agreement or a month-to-month rental. At present, there are five Homewood locations throughout Maryland and Pennsylvania. The seventh new community will break ground in the Shenandoah Valley at Strasburg, Va.

For more information, contact Bomblosky at 623-0349. ☀



HAVING FUN: Richard Imes and Cy Ritchey enjoy playing pool.



PEACEFUL SETTING: A scenic background is available from all of the cottages. Despite the nearness of Route 30, the location is quiet.

GEOHERMAL COMFORT
Harnessing the Energy of the Earth...

\$250 per Ton
 rebate available **"Geothermal Systems"**

Geothermal systems offer a safe, renewable energy resource by transferring solar energy from the earth to your home. Open loop geothermal heat pumps use supply and return water wells, while closed loops (either horizontal or vertical) use fluid filled underground vertical, horizontal, slinky or pond piping to transfer geothermal energy. They produce up to 5 times more energy than they consume, resulting in unparalleled energy efficiency and reduced utility bills. Your family will enjoy comfortable, consistent temperatures, healthy, clean air all day and night, during both summer and winter, with no more blast of hot or cold air. Plus, built-in humidity control will even make your business/recreation rooms luxuriously comfortable.

There are several different types of systems shown on the right. Each one designed specifically for different preferences or situations.

Why choose a Geothermal System?

1. Enjoy both heating and cooling
2. Warm, comfortable air flow from supply ducts
3. More economical than oil, gas, or propane systems
4. Long Life—average 20-25 year span
5. No unsightly outdoor unit to maintain
6. Environmentally friendly—no explosive fuels, flame, smoke, soot or other pollutants
7. Low maintenance—just clean the filter periodically
8. Increases resale value of home
9. Bedford Rural Electric offers a \$250 rebate per ton of capacity installed

Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.
 "People You Can Count On" Phone: 623-5101
 A Tri-State Energy Cooperative www.bedfordrec.com

Emergency Power Needs

As a service to our members, Bedford Rural Electric needs to be aware of situations where special needs exist. Please provide the following details:

(Please print clearly)

Account: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Special Needs: Medical

Farming/Livestock

Other _____

Each year, our goal is to provide service with no outages. Unfortunately, that is not a realistic expectation. Outages do occur and during severe storms, service restoration may take several days or longer. Therefore, we strongly recommend that our members with special needs install standby backup generation equipment. Please contact our office for more information on this type of equipment.

TROUBLE CALL SCHEDULE

In case of trouble ...

First Check your fuses or circuit breakers.

Second Check with your neighbors, if convenient, to see if they have been affected by the power failure.

Third Call 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 person receiving 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.

Alternate numbers ...

Greg Miller	Week of January 4	839-0037
Al Hileman	Week of January 11	766-9971
Jim Seymour	Week of January 18	839-2848
Ed Hankinson	Week of January 25	733-4005
Scott Bischof	Week of February 1	839-4640
Scott Shook	Week of February 8	623-2395

In case you cannot reach any of the above ... Call:

Jim Wood	Bedford	623-6121
James Clark	Everett	652-9791
Mark Rowan	Bedford	623-7890

During widespread power outages, many members are calling to report power failures, so you may receive a busy signal. Please be patient and try again in a few minutes.

STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION

Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc. is the recipient of federal financial assistance from the Rural Utilities Service (formerly Rural Electrification Administration), an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and is subject to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended. In accordance with federal law and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs). No person shall be excluded from participation in, admission or access to, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any of this organization's programs or activities.

The person responsible for coordinating this organization's nondiscrimination compliance efforts is Barbara J. Duvall, human resources manager. Any individual, or specific class of individuals, who feels that this organization has subjected them to discrimination, may obtain further information about the statutes and regulations listed above and/or file a written complaint. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call 202/720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discrimination. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible.