

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

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Office Hours

Monday through Friday

7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

From the General Manager



Considering solar? Give us a call before committing

By Brooks Shoemaker

TODAY'S consumers want and expect options, including the type of energy powering their homes. Many homeowners are looking for a less expensive form of energy with ongoing savings. Some are looking for a green energy source. These two motives are why many homeowners are exploring rooftop solar panels.

The interest in alternative energy sources is also being fueled by decreasing costs for rooftop solar, the availability of financial incentives and the proliferation of companies offering solar panel installation.

However, as attractive and popular as rooftop solar may appear, it is important for consumers to fully understand its true costs, the operational reality of this form of energy, and the actual energy savings. To determine whether rooftop solar is right for their particular situation, homeowners must do their due diligence.

As your trusted energy adviser, Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative can offer a candid assessment of your specific situation. After all, we have a different "bottom line," and it is not directly tied to the sale of a product or service. We constantly strive to find new ways to help you use energy more efficiently.

We work hard to keep pace with the changing energy environment and constantly evolving technology. We are exploring more and different options that will help you effectively manage your energy use. We take a holistic, objective view on how to achieve

energy savings.

To help determine whether rooftop solar is right for you, it is important to look at the geographical and structural aspects of your home, including the following:

- ▶ overall energy efficiency of the home/building
- ▶ age and pitch of the roof
- ▶ orientation of the sun in relation to the home/building
- ▶ tree coverage near the home/building
- ▶ weather patterns for the region

Unlike a solar company that has one objective — to sell their products and services — we will help you look at the total energy picture and help determine what options are best for your home. While rooftop solar certainly works for many people, it's not the answer for all.

When determining whether rooftop solar is right for you, it is important to evaluate the financial implications, such as:

- ▶ Is there a large, upfront payment required or are fees spread out over time?
- ▶ Are there actual savings for the homeowner or is the utility bill savings just being replaced by another loan and more debt?
- ▶ Will the homeowner own the panels or lease them?
- ▶ Are there any hidden costs, i.e., does the roof need to be replaced before installing the panels?

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Stay-at-home dad loves his job

By Linda Williams

MARISSA Buterbaugh and Andrew Leydig were married on July 23, 2011. One year later, their vivacious little daughter, Payton, was born. Marissa was in a physical therapy doctorate program, and Andrew was working second shift at a local industry. It was a busy time for them, but life was about to get even busier.

Three years later, Mackenzie came along, and three years after that, Kendall arrived. Like so many working couples, it was hectic. Marissa became a physical therapist, a demanding profession, and

Andrew continued to work in local industries. A great family who lived nearby babysat the children and treated the Leydig girls as their own.

“But,” Andrew says, “we realized we were missing out on so much. We were so busy that we just got done what had to be done and were missing all the developments of our girls.”

He says he and Marissa talked it over for hours. Kendall was about to be born, and they knew this was going to add more stress. Active members of the Bedford United Methodist Church, they prayed about their situation and came to the conclusion that one of them had to quit working — and it was going to be Andrew.

“It was not an easy decision,” Andrew says, “because we were giving up a paycheck, but we put a lot of thought into it. Thankfully, we had a supportive family and just before Kendall was born,

FAMILY TIME: The Leydig family spends as much time as possible together – and outdoors.

I turned in my notice.”

By the time Kendall arrived, Payton was already in school. The distance from their home to Chestnut Ridge School is long, and the Leydigs did not like the idea of their daughters riding the bus. Andrew takes them to school and picks them up each day. He sees to their school needs and admits that he is sometimes the lone male at school meetings.

“I love being a girl dad, and I don’t mind if I am one of the few males at a function,” he says.

For instance, if the girls are involved in a hoagie sale at school, it is Andrew who does the deliveries.

Andrew says he does most everything around the house, but is not good at cleaning.

“I keep working at getting better,” he says. “Marissa still does far more cleaning than I do, and she always sets aside time in the day for the girls to have devotions and to do their school work.”

While he enjoys cooking, Andrew admits that what he likes to cook and what the girls will eat can be two entirely different things. He likes to grill even during the winter, and they try to focus on eating fresh produce along with venison, beef, pork, and chicken. The family also has fish dishes several times a month. He likes to make chili, vegetable soup, and occasionally, cheesy potato or French onion soup. The Leydigs have a garden each summer, and Andrew has learned to can and prepare fruits and vegetables for the winter months.

As a family, they do a lot of fun things. They all like to hunt and fish. Two years ago, at age 7, Payton shot a buck and a doe. Last year and this year, she got her deer with a bow and arrow. As a family, they take hikes, kayak on the river and at Shawnee, and take camping trips to various state parks. The girls are now 9, 6, and 3, so the whole family loves doing things together.

“Even cutting wood can be a family adventure,” Andrew says.

They are active in church, and Payton and Mackenzie both sing in the children’s choir.

When Marissa goes to work each day, she is able to concentrate on what she has to do. If one of the girls gets sick or needs to be picked up from school, mom knows dad has her covered. Being a stay-at-home dad has lessened the stress for everyone. Marissa’s working hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., which allows for evening family time.

Andrew says he may eventually return to the workforce, but would like to try something different.

According to Pew Research, about 17% of American men are stay-at-home dads. As the Leydigs have discovered, it’s whatever works best for the family. 🌸



ENJOYING THE OUTDOORS: The Leydig girls do it all: fishing, hunting, hiking, kayaking and camping.

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.

NON-TRADITIONAL STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) will be awarding at least four scholarships of \$1,000 each to non-traditional students whose primary residence is served by Bedford REC.

For an application, go to our website at bedfordrec.com and click on **scholarship information**. Applications are also available at the office.

All applications and required information must be received no later than March 1, 2022.

**Mail application to:
Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative
P. O. Box 335
Bedford, PA 15522**

HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) will be awarding at least four scholarships of \$1,000 each to seniors whose parents' or guardians' primary residence is served by Bedford REC.

For an application, go to our website at bedfordrec.com and click on **scholarship information**. Applications are also available at the office.

All applications and required information must be received no later than March 1, 2022.

**Mail application to:
Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative
P. O. Box 335
Bedford, PA 15522**

Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc. Nondiscrimination Statement

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Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.asc.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

(1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;

(2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or

(3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

Brooks R. Shoemaker
General Manager & CEO

Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc. is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

From the General Manager

(continued from page 18a)

- ▶ Are there ongoing maintenance fees?
- ▶ Who will own and potentially be able to sell the solar renewable energy certificates?
- ▶ Are there rebates or other financial incentives available?
- ▶ Is the estimated energy savings worth the investment?
- ▶ Is it more cost-effective to invest in other energy-saving measures?
- ▶ Is net metering available and, if so, for how long? If not, how does that impact the return on my investment?

Taking into account current energy consumption, the home “envelope” (the physical barriers that separate the inside conditioned space from the outside unconditioned area), the age and efficiency of the HVAC system, and the geographic characteristics of the home site, we can help cooperative members determine whether rooftop solar is the best choice given the homeowner’s objectives. We can also offer insight into construction timeframes and cost savings that are promised by solar developers (which can be unreasonable).

In conjunction with your research about whether alternative generation is right for you, do not forget to research the companies that you are considering to provide and install the system. A simple web search of “XYZ Home Solar Company reviews” will reveal a lot of information about that company and may influence your decision.

When assessing solar options, it is also an excellent time to examine other potential energy efficiency improvements for your home. For example, it may make sense to insulate the attic or replace the roof at the same time as installing solar.

Here at the cooperative, we recognize that consumer interest in green energy sources and renewables is at an all-time high, and we stand ready to help our members determine their best options. ☀