



Steuben Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

THE ENERGIZER



People You Can Count On

www.steubenrec.com

August 2015

What is the Smart Grid?

Maybe you have heard of the Smart Grid on the news or from your energy provider. But not everyone knows what the grid is, let alone the Smart Grid. The grid," refers to the electric grid, a network of transmission lines, substations, transformers and other equipment used to deliver electricity from the power plant to your home or business. It's what you plug into when you flip on your light switch or power up your computer. Our current electric grid was built in the 1890s and improved upon as technology advanced through each decade. Today, it consists of more than 9,200 electric generating units with more than 1 million megawatts of generating capacity connected to more than 300,000 miles of transmission lines. Although the electric grid is considered an engineering marvel, we are stretching its patchwork nature to its capacity. To move forward, we need a new kind of electric grid, one that is built from the bottom up to handle the groundswell of digital and computerized equipment and technology dependent on it—and one that can automate and manage the increasing complexity and needs of electricity in the 21st century.

What Makes a Grid "Smart?"

In short, the digital technology that allows for two-way communication between the utility and its customers, and the sensing along the transmission lines is what makes the grid smart. Like the internet, the Smart Grid will

consist of controls, computers, automation, and new technologies and equipment working together, but in this case, these technologies will work with the electrical grid to respond digitally to our quickly changing electric demand.

What does a Smart Grid do?

The Smart Grid represents an unprecedented opportunity to move the energy industry into a new era of reliability, availability, and efficiency that will contribute to our economic and environmental health. During the transition period, it will be critical to carry out testing, technology improvements, consumer education, development of standards and regulations, and information sharing between projects to ensure that the benefits we envision from the Smart Grid become a reality. The benefits associated with the Smart Grid include: More efficient transmission of electricity, quicker restoration of electricity after power disturbances, reduced operations and management costs for utilities and ultimately lower power costs for consumers, reduced peak demand which will also help lower electricity rates, increased integration of large-scale renewable energy systems, better integration of customer-owner power generation systems, including renewable energy systems and improved security. Today, electricity disruption such as a blackout can have a domino effect—a series of failures that

can affect banking, communications, traffic, and security. This is a particular threat in the winter, when homeowners can be left without heat. A smarter grid will add resiliency to our electric power system and make it better prepared to address emergencies such as severe storms, earthquakes, large solar flares, and terrorist attacks. Because of its two-way interactive capacity, the Smart Grid will allow for automatic rerouting when equipment fails or outages occur. This will minimize outages and minimize the effects when they do happen. When a power outage occurs, Smart Grid technologies will detect and isolate the outages, containing them before they become large-scale blackouts. The new technologies will also help ensure that electricity recovery resumes quickly and strategically after an emergency—routing electricity to emergency services first. In addition, the Smart Grid will take greater advantage of customer-owned power generators to produce power when it is not available from utilities. By combining these "distributed generation" resources, a community could keep its health center, police department, traffic lights, phone system, and grocery store operating during emergencies. In addition, the Smart Grid is a way to address an aging (cont'd back page)

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Bath Office

9 Wilson Avenue
Bath, NY 14810
607-776-4161
1-800-843-3414

Cherry Creek Office

5966 South Road
Cherry Creek, NY 14723
1-716-296-5651
1-800-883-8236

Office Hours

7:30 to 4:00PM (M-F)

After Hour Outages

1-866-430-4293

Call Dig Safety New York

Before You Dig - 811 or
1-800-962-7962



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Budget Billing is Available

Budget Billing is a convenient way to manage your electric bill payments. The budget billing plan helps you avoid high seasonal bills by making an even monthly payment throughout the year. Budget Billing is available to members with accounts in good standing who have had electrical service at the same address for at least 12 months. Budget Billing is free and there are no sign up charges or monthly fees. All you need to do is keep your account balance current. For our budget plan, a monthly budget amount is set in October and the mem-

ber pays the same amount each month. Your budget amount is calculated by taking the total of your bills from the past 12 months and dividing it into 11 equal payments. During the 12th month, your bill will be adjusted for the difference between your budget bill amount and the actual cost of electricity consumed over the year. Your bill will still show you the number of kilowatt hours of electricity you use each month, so you can track your energy use. Your monthly statement will now show two amounts, (1) your actual electric charges

for the billing period and (2) the amount you should pay according to your budget bill plan. You should always pay the budget amount due each month. It is possible, despite all of the best efforts to estimate what your budget billing should be, that you will owe a chunk of money at the end. Avoid the surprise of a big bill by regularly checking your monthly statements. To enroll for the 2015-2016 period (Oct. 2015–Sept. 2016) please contact our billing department at 776-4161 or 800-843-3414.

Paying the Price Of Power Theft

It's often an "invisible" crime. Someone illegally hooks into a power supply, hooks up a line that has been disconnected, or tampers with a meter to avoid recording electricity usage. Legitimate electricity consumers do not engage in these behaviors, so the impact of electricity theft—including the danger—is often unrecognized. Power theft carries deadly risks. Many thieves pay for the power they steal with their lives. Electricity theft is not just dangerous for those who steal. If you are on the same power line as someone who steals electricity you could pay the cost of their theft too. The power line could become overloaded with electric energy, which

could harm your electronics and appliances that are designed to receive a certain, steady amount of electricity. Electricity theft makes power service less reliable and lower quality for paying customers. Electricity thieves may also unknowingly feed energy back into the power line. This is dangerous for linemen who may assume that the power line they are working on is de-energized. Safe Electricity reminds that everyone can help prevent and reduce power theft: Notify your electric utility immediately if you know of an illegally connected consumer. Do not cut the seal on your meter base or tamper with your own meter for any reason. Apply for a legal connection

if you do not have one. Remain aware of your surroundings and report any suspicious activities to your electric utility. Most electrical theft crimes occur through meter tampering, bypassing meters, and tapping power lines. Other less frequent crimes include tapping into neighboring premises, using illegal lines after being disconnected, self-reconnection without consent, and electrifying fences. Possessing fraudulent electricity bills is also a federal crime and is punishable by law. Everyone is affected by power theft, and detecting and reporting illegal activity will help reduce the price paid.

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Source: Safe Electricity.org

E-Bill Service — Join E-Bill and Go Paperless

Steuben Rural Electric is pleased to offer, our members the option to view your bill online and, if you choose, to also pay your bill online with a credit card or electronic check. The E-Bill service is available on our website at www.steubenrec.com. Simply click on the Pay Bill icon on our homepage and follow the instructions to sign up for the E-Bill service. As an E-Bill member you will have access to an online version of your paper bill. This a great option for members who travel, or for our "snow birds" who are away from home

for extended periods of time. You will have access to charts showing your electric usage history, cost history and averages. You will also be able to contact us, service your account, review service requests and review your Capital Credit refund information. When you join E-Bill you will also have the option to go paperless! Help the environment by reducing paper waste. In an ever-increasing goal to become more conscious of our environment, SREC is striving for a paperless billing system. When you sign up for the E-Bill op-

tion, you will no longer receive a paper bill. You'll have something better! Your payment history, billing statements and usage history will be at your fingertips online, rather than taking up space in a folder somewhere at your desk at home. Once you've enrolled, you'll receive a confirmation email and your next bill online. When your bill statement is ready, we'll post it online and send you an email. You can switch back to receiving a paper bill at any time.

Power Outage? Check These Items Before Calling

It's a sinking, helpless feeling when you realize you have no electricity. Suddenly you're without so many of the everyday conveniences that we take for granted—maybe even heat. It's a natural reaction to call the Cooperative and get your power restored as quickly as possible. However, it's to your advantage to stop and check a few things first, before calling to report an outage. The Cooperative's responsibility for power outages ends at the meter. We will repair and maintain the distribution lines, transformers, poles and line that con-

nects to your meter, which is either located on your house or on a stand-alone pole. If we dispatch a truck and crew to repair an outage and we discover that the problem doesn't involve distribution lines, meter or transformer, but rather is inside your home, you will incur a service charge from the Cooperative and still will not have power restored. When you notice that your power is out, first call your neighbors to see if they have power, it's a good chance that the issue is isolated to your location. Next, follow these steps: Check

your breakers in your home's electrical panel. Check to make sure that all of the circuits that should be on, are on. If not, flip the switches that are "OFF" and recheck to see if power has been restored. If all the circuits are on and there still isn't power, then if you have a fuse box, check to see that all the fuses are good or replace a blown fuse. If all the fuses are fine, then it's time to call the Cooperative. Our line crews are always on call to assist our members as quickly as possible.

Tips: Shopping For Appliances

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You go shopping for a new refrigerator, and you're on a budget. The best buy is the fridge with the lowest sales price, right? If you buy the lowest-priced refrigerator, you may end up spending more than if you buy a more expensive one. When you're shopping for appliances, think of two price tags. The first one covers the purchase price—think of it as a down payment. The second price tag is the cost of operating the appliance during its lifetime. Consider both when buying a new appliance. You'll be paying on that second price tag every month with your utility bill for the next

10 to 20 years, depending on the appliance. Refrigerators last an average of 12 years. When you shop for a new appliance, look for the ENERGY STAR label. The Energy Star logo is on all qualified products that meet specific standards for energy efficiency. Energy Star qualified products exceed the federal minimum standards for efficiency and quality. Look for the label on appliances, electronics, water heaters, and other products that consume energy in your home. To help you figure out whether an appliance is energy efficient, the federal government requires most appliance-

es to display the bright yellow and black Energy Guide label. Although these labels will not show you which appliance is the most efficient on the market, they will show you the annual energy consumption and operating cost for each appliance so you can compare them yourself. Keep in mind that the numbers are averages, actual costs will differ somewhat depending on how you use them. Change to appliances that have earned the ENERGY STAR, and you can save in energy costs while saving the environment.

Why Electricity Remains A Good Value

Electricity is used every day. Often times we don't think about it. We trust the electricity will be there to power our alarm clocks so we can wake up on time, brew our first cup of coffee and have a warm shower before heading out the door. Often though, the value of electricity is taken for granted. If you came home this evening and turned on your electric range or microwave to make supper, you are one of SREC Electric's 6,000 members using electricity in your home. Recently, much has been made of the rising cost of electricity, now and in the future. While that is true, it's important to understand that electricity remains an

undeniable bargain, and one of life's great conveniences. Electricity continues to be a good value, especially when compared to other consumer goods. Consider the cost of a gallon of gas 30 years ago compared to today's price. How about a pound of coffee or a loaf of bread? While this doesn't take the sting out of rising costs, it does show that the cost of electricity has remained flat, despite its increased use and value to our daily lives. Today, there are more people served by Electric Cooperatives than ever before and most members are using more electronic devices and more power than years ago. It makes sense,

we have become increasingly reliant upon electricity. It is nearly impossible for us to think about what our lives would be like if we did not have electricity. If at times it doesn't seem that electricity is affordable, remember even as the demand for electricity grows—annual cost increases still remain low, especially when compare to other consumer goods such as medical care, education and gasoline. Electricity is a great bargain. SREC is committed to making sure that you and your family always have safe, reliable and affordable electric service in your home.

What is the Smart Grid? (continued from front page)

Infrastructure that needs to be upgraded or replaced. It's a way to address energy efficiency, to bring increased awareness to consumers about the connection between electricity use and the environment. And it's a way to bring increased national security to our energy system—drawing on greater amounts of home-grown electricity that is more resistant to

natural disasters and attack. The Smart Grid is not just about utilities and technologies; it is about giving you the information and tools you need to make choices about your energy use. The Smart Grid will consist of millions of pieces and parts—controls, computers, power lines, and new technologies and equipment. It will take some time for all the technolo-

gies to be perfected, equipment installed, and systems tested before it comes fully on line. And it won't happen all at once—the Smart Grid is evolving, piece by piece, over the next decade or so. Once mature, the Smart Grid will likely bring the same kind of transformation that the internet has already brought to the way we live, work, play and learn.

Source: Smartgrid.gov

Marathon®

Only Marathon offers the one thing you are looking for in a water heater.

EVERYTHING! In fact, marathon water heaters are so well made, they come with a Lifetime No-Leak warranty. Marathon efficiency saves you energy and your pocket book. Their durability eliminates you having to buy a new water heater every 10 years (national average). Replace your current water heater with a Marathon water heater and receive a rebate of \$1 per rated gallon capacity (load control switch must be installed).

Call the office today at 607-776-4161 for more information.



Energy Efficiency
Tip of the Month

Does your home have a window air conditioner? Make sure that your window unit is properly weather stripped, and clean the filter monthly. Keep "fresh air" vents on window A/C units closed.

Source: Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives

Is your account number in this issue? Somewhere located in the body of this newsletter are five (5) account numbers. If you find your account number in this newsletter call the office within fifteen (15) days and your account number will be credited \$10.00.

The Trading Post

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For Sale

Trapping Supplies, Grandview Fur Center, Bill Bowdoin, Bradford, NY.
Call 607-583-4600.

Hunting and Trapping Supplies, Animal Lures, Deer Lures, Baits, Cover Scents, Supply Catalog \$1.00. Bill Russ Trading Post Store, 25 William St, Addison NY 14801.

2007 Dodge Dually 8' Box. No Winters. Like NEW. From New Mexico. Fits several Dodge model years—\$800. Call 716-640-4981 and leave a message.

THETFORD PORTA POTTI—for RV, camping, boating, etc.—clean, in original box—2.6 gal. fresh water holding tank; measures 12 1/16" H, 15" L, 13 9/16" W; has built-in carrying handle and includes 1-8 oz. bottle Aqua-Kem holding tank deodorant. Costs new \$102 w/o tax. Asking \$50. Call 716-532-5287. South Dayton, NY.

1998 Polaris 600 Indy snowmobile \$1000 OBO; 7' quick attach 5 position snow plow blade for a tractor or skid steer \$1500 OBO; 5 jet MTI bathtub \$500 OBO—Call 607-382-8116; if no answer, leave a message.

Firewood for sale; also 4ft. Clod buster, Please call 607-776-6570.

Miscellaneous

The Cala Lily Yarn Shop is open! Beautiful yarns, notions, and gift items, 10% off all regularly priced yarn to members with co-op connections card. Open Sept-June T/Th 4:30-8:00, Sat 10-3 and July-Aug T/Th 4:30-8:00, Weds/Sat 10-3. Call 716-397-9478.

Welder Hats, Soft Brim, Sleeves, Doo Rags, Fleece Neck Warmers and Hoods, Bulk Pricing and Free Shipping Available. Call 912-655-8336, or visit website: sewmanythings.vpweb.com

ANN's Housekeeping & Cleaning Service, "Old Fashion Cleaning, We Get In All The Corners". References and reliable! Homes, Offices, Cottages, Parties, Seasonal Cleaning. Call: 607-329-4906. Gift Certificates Available.

Wanted

Raw Fur and Deer Hides. Grandview Fur Center, Bill Bowdoin, Bradford, NY. Call 607-583-4600.

6 to 8 ft. 3 pt. disk, also house trailer tires with wheels. Call 607-776-6570

Free

Free—five kittens to a good country home, they are not very old. There are 3 black & 3 white/black. Please call 607-962-7389.

Mark Your Calendars!

SREC Annual Meeting
October 10, 2015 at
Canisteo-Greenwood
High School
84 Greenwood St
Canisteo, NY 14823

SREC 2015 Office Closing Reminder:

Monday, September 7, 2015
Monday, October 12, 2015
Thursday, Nov. 26, 2015
Friday, Nov. 27, 2015

To advertise in the next issue of The Energizer, please mail, email or fax your ad by November 10, 2015 to:

Steuben REC, Inc.
9 Wilson Ave, Bath, NY 14810
Attention: Kristen Cleveland
kcleveland@steubenrec.com
Fax: 607-776-2293