

# Somerset Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives  
serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

## SOMERSET REC

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800-443-4255

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Website: [www.somersetrec.com](http://www.somersetrec.com)

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*Executive Assistant*

## OFFICE HOURS

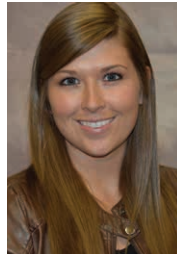
Monday through Friday  
7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

## EMERGENCY OUTAGE NUMBERS

814-445-4106  
800-443-4255

## Guest Column

# Uncovering the Causes of Your High Electric Bill



**EMILY BAER**

**WE OCCASIONALLY RECEIVE AN UNPLEASANT** electric bill. It happens when the pool pump runs continuously, the water heater springs a leak, the space heater is plugged into an outlet on your screened-in porch or you forget to turn off the window air conditioner for the third day in a row.

Aside from such obvious culprits, weather-related issues and lifestyle changes also contribute to high electric bills. If you are surprised by a high bill, exercise your detective skills and start searching for the cause.

## Detecting the issues in your home

With the proper knowledge and tools, you will have a better understanding of how to manage your electric use. Of course, there's the old-fashioned way of tracking electricity use: reading your meter. If you think you have a problem, I recommend taking readings every 24 hours and jotting down what you did that day. After two weeks, you will get a pretty good idea of where your electricity is being used.


Lifestyle changes, meanwhile, are more challenging to pinpoint. Some common causes of increased electric use include working full time from home, which means heavy computer use, lights being on, heating/cooling the house and kitchen appliances being active during the day. Other factors include device charging, home additions and renovations, and energy use during peak demand times. When looking at a higher-than-average bill, focus on when the kilowatt-hours were used.

Another common complaint we hear is, "I just purchased a new energy-efficient refrigerator and my electric bill went up." When asked what they did with the old appliance, many times the answer is, "I moved my old fridge to my garage." Older appliances are much less efficient, so when you purchase a new one to save energy, be sure to unplug the old appliance.

Weather can also change dramatically from one month to the next. Recently, extreme summer heat resulted in the continuous use of air conditioners. Be mindful, too, of space heater use as cold weather approaches or you may continue to see higher electric bills.

## The co-op can help

If your detective work doesn't yield anything out of the ordinary, a few other options are available. Try our online energy audit at [togetherwesave.com](http://togetherwesave.com). If you are still unable to determine the cause of your high electric bill, call your cooperative member service representative at 814-445-4106 to borrow our Kill-A-Watt meter, which can tell you instantly how much electricity an appliance draws.

By identifying the habits and hidden factors driving up electricity costs, you can take meaningful steps toward reducing your bill. A little awareness goes a long way, and even small changes can lead to noticeable savings over time. 

## EMILY BAER

DIRECTOR OF MARKETING AND MEMBER SERVICES

# Say Hello to Jarrod Putman: A New Addition to Our HVAC Team

**EMILY BAER**, DIRECTOR OF MARKETING & MEMBER SERVICES

**WE'RE EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE THE** latest addition to our heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) department, Jarrod Putman. With more than a decade of experience in HVAC diagnostics and repair, Jarrod is a seasoned professional who brings a wealth of knowledge to the cooperative.

His journey in the industry began shortly after graduating from North Star High School in 2012 and enrolling at Triangle Tech. There, he graduated at the top of his class in 2013, earning an associate degree in refrigeration, heating, ventilation and air conditioning.

Since then, Jarrod has been honing his skills through hands-on experience, tackling a range of diagnostic and repair challenges. His professional career includes work at several reputable companies in the HVAC field, including Van Bremen's Heating and Air, ARS Rescue Rooter in Pittsburgh, and MARC Service. He's known for his ability to troubleshoot complex issues and provide solutions that not only fix problems but also improve long-term system reliability.

For Jarrod, HVAC work isn't just a job; it's a way to make a difference in the lives of others.

"I enjoy helping people in my community whenever I can," he says. "Here at Somerset Rural Electric Cooperative (REC), I feel I can do that in the work we provide. To be able to walk into a member's home and help resolve their HVAC issues or maintain their equipment is extremely gratifying work."

As part of our team, Jarrod is excited to make an impact in the community by ensuring our members have reliable heating and cooling systems in their homes.

Outside of work, Jarrod enjoys hiking with friends and family. When he's not exploring the outdoors, he spends quality time at home with his wife and son. He also enjoys playing video games, a hobby that allows him to unwind and engage in friendly competition.

With his extensive background in HVAC diagnostics and repair — as well as his strong desire to help others — Jarrod is a great fit for the cooperative's HVAC department. His experience and dedication to providing high-quality service align perfectly with the values we share here at Somerset REC.

Join us in welcoming Jarrod to the team. We look forward to seeing the great work he'll do in the HVAC department and the difference he'll make for our members. 🍪



EMILY BAER

**2025  
MEMBER  
APPRECIATION  
DAY**

**GIFTS  
FOR  
ATTENDEES**

**JOIN US FOR LUNCH!**

**THURSDAY, OCT. 9**  
**10 a.m. - 2 p.m.**

**WE WILL BE GRILLING HOT DOGS AND KIELBASA  
AND OFFERING REFRESHMENTS.**

**SOMERSET REC OFFICE  
223 INDUSTRIAL PARK ROAD  
SOMERSET, PA 15501**

**ONE OF THE SEVEN COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLES IS  
CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY. LET'S HELP OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED!**

**WE WILL BE COLLECTING NON-PERISHABLE ITEMS TO BE  
DONATED TO FOOD PANTRIES IN OUR COMMUNITY.**

**ALL DONATING MEMBERS WILL BE ENTERED FOR A CHANCE TO  
WIN ONE OF FIVE \$50 ELECTRIC BILL CREDITS.**



## TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS



Solar energy is rising in popularity, and so are solar scams. If a salesperson knocks on your door and promises free solar panels at zero cost, or says that you'll never have to pay your energy bill again, it's likely a scam. If you're interested in solar panels for your home, do your research, get multiple quotes from licensed providers who are reputable and, most importantly, take your time to ensure a smooth process.

*Source: Federal Trade Commission*



**KEEPING THINGS CLEAR ALL SUMMER:** Jacob Knopsnyder, left, and Levi Whipkey, graduates of Berlin-Brothersvalley High School, assisted the right-of-way crew this summer. Their primary responsibility was to maintain safe and accessible paths for utility lines. Their work included clearing vegetation, trimming trees, flagging and managing overgrowth that could interfere with power lines. Thanks, Levi and Jacob, for helping us keep the lights on.

# Thanks, Landowners

**Co-op crews extend a big THANKS to the landowners who allowed herbicide application this year.**

**Crews want you to know...**

**“We appreciate you working with us. It helps us provide you with better service and quicker outage restoration times.”**

