

The Energy Line

Energy information for the customers of Wellsboro Electric



Wellsboro Electric

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www.wellsboroelectric.com

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**Energize
the
holidays
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Call 570-724-3516
for details.**



Plan ahead for higher winter-time utility costs

By Danette Kerestes

Manager of Consumer Services

We have experienced mild winters the last few years, but early predictions seem to indicate colder-than-normal temperatures are in store for us this winter.

Colder temperatures, the holiday season, and fewer hours of daylight all cause energy costs to go up this time of year.

We encourage customers to plan ahead for higher utility costs associated with the cold-weather months. Our website, www.wellsboroelectric.com, contains a wealth of information aimed at helping consumers save on energy costs through conservation and efficiency measures. Be sure to click on the Home Energy Suite icon on our home page for energy-saving ideas. I would like to note that you can expect to see a fresh new look and updated information on our website in coming months. Stay tuned.

For our customers who expect to have difficulty keeping up with higher energy costs this heating season, there are a number of programs and services that may be available to you, including:

- **Budget Billing.** The Budget Billing plan allows you to avoid monthly fluctuations in your electric bills. All residential customers are eligible to participate in Budget Billing, which establishes a fixed monthly payment based on the 12-month average of your electric bills. To enroll, call us at 570-724-3516.

- **Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).** The LIHEAP program is funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and provides financial assistance to low-income households struggling to pay their energy bills. LIHEAP offers Cash grants to help qualifying customers pay their home energy bills during the winter months, and Crisis grants for those facing emergency situations in which they are in danger of being without heat. Those emergency situations include: having broken heating equipment or leaking lines that must be fixed or replaced; lack of fuel; having utility service terminated; or in danger of being without fuel or of having utility service terminated. For income guidelines or assistance, contact the toll-free LIHEAP hotline at 1-866-857-7095 or the Tioga County Assistance Office at 570-724-4501 or online at: www.compass.state.pa.us

- **Dollar Energy Fund.** The \$1 Energy Fund provides grants to low-income residential customers to help them pay their electric bills. To qualify for assistance, certain guidelines must be met. Please call Wellsboro Electric at 570-724-3516 or Trehab at 570-662-8110 for more information.

- **Trehab Weatherization Services.** Weatherization Services helps reduce the cost of energy use around the home through the installation of energy-saving tools, utilities, and appliances. Energy education is also in place as part of this program to assist clients in further reducing energy costs by utilizing their energy more efficiently. Funding for this program is provided by the PA Department of Community & Economic Development (DCED) office of Community Services, and is designed to meet the needs of low-income families. For more information contact Trehab at 570-662-8110.

Best wishes to you and yours for a safe and happy holiday season.

A big bang for a buck

Wellsboro Electric makes it easy for customers to help out their neighbors through our \$1 Energy Fund.



By simply adding one dollar to your monthly electric bill, you can help neighbors in need here in the Wellsboro area. You can also opt to make a one-time donation with your electric bill payment, if you prefer.

All donations are matched by Wellsboro Electric, and 100 percent of the contributions are used to provide energy grants to needy families in the Wellsboro area.

To begin contributing to the Dollar Energy Fund, simply designate your tax-deductible contribution amount on the return stub of your electric bill. You may stop your donation at any time.

If you are currently contributing to this fund and would like to increase your donation amount, please contact us at 570-724-3516.

Keep current with us on Facebook

Looking to keep up with the latest news involving your local electric company? Join us on Facebook.



By “liking” Wellsboro Electric on Facebook, you can receive timely information from your electric company. Facebook is becoming an increasingly popular way for us to communicate outage and storm information to our customers.

To join us on Facebook, visit us at www.wellsboroelectric.com and click on the Facebook link on our home page.

Are You Ready for Winter?

With colder temperatures, fewer hours of daylight and the holiday season at hand, you can expect to see your energy costs rise during the winter months.

Wellsboro Electric encourages customers to take steps to save on energy expenses this winter. Following are some conservation tips that cost next-to-nothing to implement but that can help you lower your energy costs this winter:

- Turning down your thermostat is one of the most effective ways to reduce energy use during the cold-weather months. You will see energy savings for every degree you lower the setting on your thermostat.
- When possible, use the cold water setting on your washer. This also helps prevent shrinking and fading.
 - Check and clean the vent on your clothes dryer after each use.
 - Wash only full loads in washer and dishwasher.
 - Close your draperies when it gets dark outside. This will help cut heat loss. Open them during the day to let the sun help warm your home.
 - Turn down your hot-water tank to 120 degrees. You will see significant savings by lowering the water temperature.
- Inspect your ductwork. Dust and lint can block air vents and reduce the efficiency of your furnace. Be sure to keep the ducts and grills clean.
 - Change or clean filters on your heating system. Clogged, dirty filters slow airflow in your heating system, which causes your furnace to work harder and run longer.
- Keep the oven door closed when it's in use. Opening the oven door frequently lets out heat and increases energy consumption.

Weathering a winter power outage

We do our best to keep a steady flow of power to your homes and businesses. Unfortunately, Mother Nature doesn't always cooperate.

When severe winter storms cause widespread power outages, there is always the potential that you could be in the dark for an extended period of time. Here are some tips for weathering a wintertime loss of power:

- Before calling to report an outage, check your home's panel box — a blown fuse or tripped circuit breaker could be at fault.
- If you've determined that the source of the interruption is outside your home, call Wellsboro Electric immediately at 570-724-3516.
- If you come across downed electric lines, always assume they are live and stay away from them. Call us to report the downed wires.
- If you are without power for more than a few minutes, unplug or turn off all electric appliances and equipment. This prevents your circuits from being overloaded if refrigerators, televisions and other appliances come on simultaneously when power is restored. Keep a lamp turned on so you know when power has been restored.
- To prevent food from spoiling, keep your refrigerator or freezer doors closed. If door seals are tight, your food should be safe for several hours.
 - Hang blankets over windows and doorways for additional insulation and try to confine your activities to a well-insulated room.
 - Dress warmly and layer your clothing.
 - Remember to check on any neighbors who may have special needs.

