

Valley Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives
serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

VALLEY RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

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Changes for August



RICH BAUER

AT THE COOPERATIVE, we have been monitoring the cost of wholesale power on the open market very closely because approximately 33% of the power we need comes from there. The other 67% comes from generation sources we own, which are normally very cost-stable.

Unfortunately, both have increased dramatically, and in turn, our costs have increased significantly.

So far, 2025 has been one of the worst overall years relating to the power industry. This past winter saw drastic cold spells in January, which set record peak usage across the region. Once spring came, every rainstorm seemed like a monsoon with damaging winds that exceeded 50 mph. Just once, I wanted to see a nice soaking rainstorm without the high winds. Then, in late June and July, temperatures soared into the 100-degree range, and the mid-Atlantic region saw peak-demand usage it hadn't seen since 2011.

All these factors caused open-market rates to increase. Meanwhile, capacity markets saw rates that were 10 times higher than expected. Usually, this doesn't have a major impact because we try to lock in our rates to level out these unforeseen peaks. What wasn't expected was that one of our turbines at the Susquehanna Steam Electric Station in Luzerne County needed to be taken out of service for more than a month for maintenance issues. With this unit down, our collective of cooperatives — 14 in Pennsylvania and New Jersey — had to replace that owned generation with market-based generation. Add all of these things together and we had the perfect storm.

After looking at our rate design, it was decided that we needed to make a slight change to offset these additional costs. Starting with your August usage and September bill, you will see a 1 cent/kWh increase in your usage. This decision was not an easy one to make, knowing that the cost of almost everything else in our lives has increased. In fact, the cooperative has worked very hard over the last few years to find ways to absorb the rising costs of fuel, materials and maintenance on our system, but the increases finally overtook income.

The all-in energy charge will rise from 11.45 cents to 12.45 cents — again, an increase of 1 cent/kWh. What does this mean for you, our members? Currently, our average residential member uses 890 kWh/month, so their all-in bill will go from \$131.91 to \$140.81, an increase of \$8.90, or 6.7%.

We have compared our residential rates with those of our neighboring utility, and I am happy to say our rates will still be 40% lower than those of their consumers who use the same amount of kWhs — and we will still have one of the lowest rates in the entire state.

There is never a good time to announce a rate increase, but with everything going on in the world today, we will continue to monitor the situation. We will also continue to work hard to keep our rates as affordable as possible while still providing the same safe and reliable service our members expect.

Thank you for being a member of Valley Rural Electric Cooperative, and if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me any time. God bless. 🙏

RICH BAUER
PRESIDENT & CEO

Co-op's Annual Golf Tournament Benefits Five Families

DOUG ROLES, VICE PRESIDENT, MEMBER SERVICES

GOLFERS, SPONSORS AND A VARIETY of donors came together to lend a hand to five area families with members facing serious medical conditions. Valley Rural Electric Cooperative's (REC) 2025 Benefit Golf Outing, held June 19 at Huntingdon Country Club, raised more than \$75,000 to assist three infants, a teenager and an elementary school teacher.

Each January, a committee of employees from the co-op's corporate and district offices selects tournament beneficiaries and begins to plan the event. The co-op then closes all four of its locations on tournament day in June so the employee team can support the fundraiser, which includes a silent auction and raffles.

"This tournament truly is a special day for the co-op employee family and our beneficiary families," Valley REC President & CEO Rich Bauer says. "Seeing so many people come

together to ease the burden of others is incredible. We are so thankful for everyone who supported this year's event."

Beneficiaries

Jett Ickes was born in November almost three months premature and

has required a breathing tube since birth. He spent his first months of life in a neonatal intensive care unit battling infections. Despite his rough start, he has tripled in size. His parents, Jared and Madyson Ickes of Altoona, are hopeful about his progress.

Blake Reed is the son of Aaron



FAMILY SUPPORT: Valley Rural Electric Cooperative President & CEO Rich Bauer, right, had the opportunity to speak with Madyson and Jared Ickes of Altoona during the co-op's benefit golf tournament. The Ickes' infant son, Jett, is one of the beneficiaries of the 2025 event.



ON THE GREEN: From left, Valley Rural Electric Cooperative employees Logan Booher, Jason Wilson and Matt Fish watch co-worker Wilmer Bucher's putt at the co-op's 2025 Benefit Golf Outing on June 19. This year's event benefited three area infants, a teenager and an elementary school teacher who are facing serious health challenges.



WINNING TEAMS: The Frontline Utility Sales team, left, and Team Okonite celebrate victory in the morning and afternoon flights, respectively. Frontline team members are, from left: Shawn Shadle, Dan Burfield, Matt Kishbach and Phil McCool. Frontline provides durable equipment, tools and personal protective gear to utilities in Pennsylvania and surrounding states. Okonite team members are, from left: Jim Armstrong, Frank Bowman, Valley Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) President & CEO Rich Bauer and Valley REC employee Ethan DeVore. Headquartered in Ramsey, N.J., Okonite is a manufacturer of high-voltage cable.

and Cierra Reed of Duncansville. He was born in October with Down syndrome and several heart defects requiring surgery. He also requires tubes for feeding and medicine. He's had lengthy hospital stays, but he is currently home.

Theodore Joseph Hess-Garcia, is the 1-year-old son of Collin of Waterfall. Theo was born with an airway disorder that requires him to use a ventilator and a feeding tube. He has a brain condition that led to epilepsy.

Dalana Snyder, 18, is a 2025 graduate of Mount Union Area High School. She is the daughter of Dale Hamman and Robin Snyder of McVeytown. In April 2024, she was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia after bleeding complications from tonsil/adenoid surgery. Dalana developed multiple

infections through her first four rounds of chemo, but the cancer is now in remission. She plans to pursue a registered nursing degree and eventually work in pediatrics.

Crissy Kyle and her husband, Andy, of Huntingdon are the parents of two young children. Crissy was diagnosed with breast cancer in late 2024. She had surgery early this year and has been undergoing treatment. Crissy is fondly known as "Mrs. Kyle" by her students at Standing Stone Elementary School.

"It's more than I imagined," Crissy said of the scope of Valley REC's tournament while visiting the country club. "I'm just really appreciative."

Valley REC's Health and Wellness Committee organized its first benefit golf tournament in 2012. Through the generous support of a wide range of businesses and individuals,

the co-op's golf outings have raised approximately \$490,000.

Fifty-two teams registered for the 2025 day-long best-ball scramble. The first flight hit the course at 8 a.m. while the afternoon flight began at 1 p.m. Players were able to purchase "cheats," such as an extra swing, a move to a closer tee or movement of a ball closer to the cup.

Valley REC's previous tournaments have benefited a young girl with a brain tumor; a boy with a rare hereditary disorder; a cooperative lineworker; two high school classmates battling cancer; an adult seriously injured in a car accident; infants and toddlers with congenital conditions; a high school senior with a life-altering digestive disorder; and a young man who was paralyzed in a swimming accident. 🧡



BENEFICIARIES: Above, left: Brad Rouser, right, founder of the Matt Baker Cancer Fund, speaks with golf tournament beneficiary Dalana Snyder, center, her parents – Robin Snyder and Dale Hamman – and family friend Adreonna Miller at Huntingdon Country Club. The Matt Baker Cancer Fund provides gas cards to cancer patients and is a platinum sponsor of the co-op's 2025 golf tournament. Above, right: Crissy Kyle, of Huntingdon, left, meets Cierra Reed and her infant son, Blake, during the cooperative's golf outing. Crissy and Blake are among the beneficiaries of this year's fundraiser.

THANK YOU VREC ANNUAL GOLF OUTING SUPPORTERS!

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