Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

SULLIVAN COUNTY REC

One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

SULLIVAN COUNTY REC
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Diane E. White, Executive Assistant

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
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*Credentialed Cooperative Director
**Board Leadership Certificate
***Director Gold Certificate

OFFICE HOURS
Monday through Friday
7 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Data Centers, Electricity, and Your Electric Bill



JOHN LYKENS

IT SEEMS LIKE YOU CANNOT turn on the television, pick up a newspaper, listen to the radio, or scroll through the news today without hearing something about artificial intelligence (AI) — and more specifically, the data centers required to power this technology.

Every internet search, streamed movie, cloud-stored photograph, TikTok or YouTube video, along with AI, relies on data centers. Data centers are essentially large buildings filled with computer servers that store, process, and move enormous amounts of information — and they consume large amounts of energy. A hyperscale data center can consume the same amount of electrical energy as a small city.

That has led to an understandable question being asked by electric consumers across the country: **are data centers going to make my electric bill go up?**

For years, electricity demand across much of the country remained relatively flat. Today, data centers and the push to electrify everything from cars to homes means additional generation is desperately needed. Transmission line upgrades, new substations, and improvements to other electrical infrastructure will also be required. Ultimately, it is the consumer who ends up paying for upgrades to the grid one way or the other.

At Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative (SCREC), we believe that any large loads, including data centers, need to fund 100% of the costs required to connect to the electric grid. If a new, large electric load requires infrastructure or power-supply investments specifically to serve that load, our existing members should not be expected to subsidize those costs.

Electric cooperatives across the country are wrestling with this same issue. Many are considering special rate structures, long-term contracts, minimum demand requirements, and upfront infrastructure contributions designed to ensure that the costs created by these facilities remain with the facilities that created them.

Data centers are neither automatically good nor automatically bad for electric rates. So much depends on where they are located, how much electricity they require, what generation and transmission capacity is available, what infrastructure must be constructed and, perhaps most important, who assumes the financial risk.

As a member-owned cooperative, our responsibility is not simply to sell as many kilowatt-hours as possible. Instead, our responsibility is to make decisions that serve the long-term interests of the people who own SCREC: you.

Due diligence is required to protect our consumer-members. Questions need to be answered before we move forward and commit to serving any large-load project. Can we serve the load reliably? Who pays for the infrastructure? What happens if a project never reaches its projected demand or closes earlier than expected? And does serving that facility benefit or — at the very least — protect the rest of our membership?

Sullivan County may never house a large data center, but that does not mean the issue cannot affect us. Large increases in electricity demand elsewhere can influence wholesale power markets, generation needs, and transmission planning — all things that ultimately have the potential to affect the cost of electricity here at home.

Increasing electric demand is not the only factor that may affect future energy costs. The same commodities that go into building transformers, regulators, wire, and other material and equipment for the power industry are also required to build and maintain a data

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Shopping Small is a Big Deal for Local Businesses

SARAH J. PARRISH-STIMMEL, COOPERATIVE COMMUNICATOR

NOVEMBER MAY BE ONE OF the busiest months of the year. Halloween parties in late October give way to Thanksgiving dinner. Folks who don't have their firewood piled quite high enough try to take advantage of a few nice autumn days before snow starts to fly. Hunters are out looking for gobblers and trophy bucks. And just as the Thanksgiving dessert plates are being cleared away, Christmas preparations are starting.

Black Friday, the day after Thanksgiving, kicks off the traditional Christmas shopping season. While looking for a steal in big-box stores can have its rewards, shopping small doesn't only reward the buyer; it rewards the seller, too.

Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative (SCREC) is proud of the small businesses it powers and those who participate in our Co-op Connections Program.

So if you'd rather stay local while starting your holiday shopping, want to support a family business, and keep your money in your community, consider these small businesses who participate in Co-op Connections and offer deals to our cooperative members.

Brady Photography

Who: Brady Photography, owned by Steve Brady

What: Fine-art landscape and nature photography featuring the PA Wilds and destinations across the U.S. Archival photographic prints, note cards, photo-zines, gift cards, apparel, and accessories are available online.

Where: 1614 Lake Road, Trout Run, Pa., 17771

Member Offer: Co-op Connections members receive 15% off eligible merchandise purchased at BradyPhotos.com using code "COOP15" at checkout. The discount does not apply to gift cards, shipping, taxes, or previously discounted merchandise and cannot be combined with other promotional offers.

Contact: Call 717-610-0441, visit BradyPhotos.com, email steve@bradyphotos.com, or follow the business on Instagram @kimboexperience.

STEVE BRADY



TREASURING THE SCENE: For the nature lover in your life, bring the outdoors in with a gift from Brady Photography.

Franklin's Small Town Flowers

Who: Franklin's Small Town Flowers, owned by Haley Franklin

What: Fresh florals, daily delivery, plants, gifts, and more.

Where: 13572 Route 87, Dushore, Pa. 18614. Big changes are happening in November, so keep an eye on social media and the store's website. Franklin's Small Town Flowers will be joining Styer Customs and The Rooted Tea Shop at 218 Center St. in Dushore to create a welcoming boutique.

FRANKLIN'S SMALL TOWN FLOWERS



JUST THINKING OF YOU: Nothing says "I was thinking of you" like a bouquet of fresh flowers. Franklin's Small Town Flowers always has fresh arrangements available for that special someone in your life.

Member Offer: $5 off any order of $50 or more. (Must be used in person or with phone order. Website orders cannot be discounted.)

Contact: Stop by the shop, call 570-928-7320, visit franklinssmalltownflowers.com, email franklinssmalltownflowers@gmail.com, or check out "Franklin's Small Town Flowers" on Facebook.

Pierced Tin Designs by Country Accents

Who: Pierced Tin Designs by Country Accents, owned by Theresa Sullivan

What: Hand-crafted punched and pierced tin artwork. Various sizes, metal, finishes, templates, and custom designs available to create cabinet inserts, ceiling panels, lanterns, Christmas ornaments, wall hangings, etc. DIY kits are also available.

Where: Rotating stock occasionally available at McCarty Mercantile in Hillsgrove, pick-up in Barbours, or shipping is available.

THERESA SULLIVAN



TIMELESS ART: If you appreciate timeless, hand-crafted artwork that will quickly become a family heirloom, Pierced Tin Designs by Country Accents has what you're looking for.

Member Offer: Free flyer available upon request.

Contact: Call 570-478-4127, email sales@piercedtin.com, visit piercedtin.com, or check out Etsy at "PiercedTinDesignsLLC" or Facebook at "Pierced Tin Designs LLC by Country Accents."

Styer Customs

Who: Styer Customs, owned by Andrew and Hiliary Styer

What: All things custom made, including embroidery, shirt printing, laser-on-leather, banners, yard signs, and decals. Styer Customs can source anything you'd like to personalize: short- or long-sleeve T-shirts, sweatshirts, tote bags, hats, jackets, backpacks, and more.

SARAH PARRISH



CUSTOM-MADE: Sweatshirts and zip-ups and hats … oh my! Styer Customs offers a little bit of everything to bring your personalized gift idea to life.

Where: 202 Center St., Dushore, Pa. 18614. Big changes are happening in November, so keep an eye on social media and the business's website. Styer Customs will be joining Franklin's Small Town Flowers and The Rooted Tea Shop at 218 Center St. in Dushore to create a welcoming boutique.

Member Offer: SCREC members who present their Co-op Connections card in person at Styer Customs receive 10% off their order of $25 or more.

Contact: Stop by the shop to see what's in stock, visit styercustoms.com, call 570-928-7980, email styercustoms@gmail.com, or check out "Styer Customs" on Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok.

Co-op Connections

Members of SCREC, a Touchstone Energy® cooperative, are eligible for discounts on hundreds of services from local and national businesses through Co-op Connections.

Benefits include, but are not limited to:

- **Health & Wellness:** Save at the pharmacy and on dental, vision, hearing, chiropractic, lab testing, and diagnostic imaging services.
- **Travel & Entertainment:** Get discounts for sport and concert tickets and at amusement parks. And while you're traveling, save on car rentals, flights, hotels, and more.
- **Safety & Security:** Members are eligible for insurance plans, ID protection, and 24-hour towing.
- **National Deals:** Enjoy a wide variety of discounts that will save you money — everything from office supplies, moving/storage services, and generators to gift cards and purchases at Staples and UniFirst.

Present your Co-op Connections card at local participating businesses to receive discounts. For national services, visit connections.coop to see a list of participating businesses.

New SCREC members receive a brochure and their Co-op Connections card in their welcome packets. Current members can receive another card by contacting the co-op office at 570-924-3381. To create and activate your account, visit connections.coop or download the app.

If you have questions about the Co-op Connections program or would like your business to participate, please call the SCREC office at the number above.

THANKSGIVING CLOSURE

The Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative office will be closed Thursday, Nov. 26, through Monday, Nov. 30, for the Thanksgiving holiday. Normal business hours, 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., will resume Tuesday, Dec. 1.

To report an outage, please call 570-924-3418.

Everyone at SCREC wishes our members and their families a blessed and safe Thanksgiving.

NOTICE OF 2027 DIRECTOR ELECTIONS

Candidates Sought for Districts 3, 4, 8

DIANE WHITE, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative (SCREC) will hold director elections for Districts 3, 4, and 8 in 2027.

To be eligible for director candidacy and to serve on the board you must be a legitimate, permanent resident of the district you seek to represent. Additional qualifications may be found on our website, screc.com, by clicking on "SCREC Center" and "Bylaws." All directors attend board and committee meetings, plus various state and national meetings and training. All directors serve a three-year term.

Residential members from Districts 3, 4, and 8 who are interested in running for a position on the cooperative's board of directors must be nominated by a petition signed by at least 10 members residing in the candidate's respective district. Petition nomination forms and further instructions are available by contacting Diane White at 570-924-3381 or dianewhite@screc.com. Petition nomination forms can be requested starting Nov. 20.

Petitions must be received by 3:30 p.m. Jan. 20, 2027, to be considered. The petitions will be reviewed by the cooperative's Credentials & Elections Committee. The director election will be conducted via mail-in ballots. Qualified candidates will also be asked to submit a brief biography, which will be included with the official ballot and published in *Penn Lines* and on our website.

Director districts up for election in 2027:

District 3: Forks Township and Forksville Borough, Sullivan County; and Overton Township, Bradford County
District 4: Laporte Borough and Laporte and Cherry townships, Sullivan County; and Albany Township, Bradford County
District 8: Plunketts Creek Township, Lycoming County

FROM THE CEO

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center. The costs for copper, aluminum, and steel are at all-time highs today.

That is why we are paying attention. Technology will continue to change, and America's demand for electricity appears likely to grow with it. As your cooperative evaluates this changing energy landscape, our priorities will remain the same: **safety, reliability, affordability, and responsibility to our members.**

Growth can bring opportunity, but opportunity should never come at the expense of the people who built and continue to own this cooperative. You have my commitment to continue asking the right questions, planning carefully, and protecting the long-term interests of all our members.

Semper Fidelis.

JOHN LYKENS
CEO

TITUS SHEETS JOINS CO-OP AS THIRD-YEAR APPRENTICE LINEMAN

SARAH J. PARRISH-STIMMEL, COOPERATIVE COMMUNICATOR

Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative (SCREC) would like to welcome Titus Sheets, a newly hired third-year apprentice lineman.

Titus is familiar with portions of our co-op's service territory, particularly in the Trout Run and Lycoming County area. He was previously employed by Everhart & Hoover Power Line Construction for five years, a company that SCREC contracts with for construction work and pole-replacement projects. Prior to joining Everhart & Hoover, he worked at his family's business, Sheets Garage, in Picture Rocks for 23 years.

The life of a contract lineworker is especially straining. Normally, contract high-voltage lineworkers travel across the United States to work on large projects. Titus has traveled to Maine and numerous places across Pennsylvania. He is looking forward to employment close to home and working on a single distribution system.

Every electric company – whether that be a municipal one, an investor-owned utility (IOU), or a cooperative – uses different operation procedures, rules, and safe-work practices. Getting to know how our operations department works and our safety measures will be his biggest learning curve.

Titus started at SCREC on Aug. 31. Many members will remember that week as a constant fight with Mother Nature as severe thunderstorms rolled through our service territory. Only three days into his co-op career, Titus was out during the day working on outage restoration on Genessee Trail and around Rose Valley. As a third-year apprentice lineman, he was able to walk line, clear branches, open and close fuses with an extendable fiberglass hot stick, and perform switching to backfeed power.

On his way to becoming a journeyman lineman with SCREC, Titus will have to complete extensive training, learn our safety program and high-voltage distribution system, and attend hands-on training through the Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association's (PREA) Job Training & Safety (JT&S) program.

SCREC requires all incoming lineworkers to complete a four-year apprentice training program known as the Power Delivery Program (PDP). Developed by Northwest Lineman College in Idaho and adopted by our CEO John Lykens, this lineworker certification program compliments on-the-job training that advances lineworkers from apprentice to journeyman classification through self-paced learning modules.

Each year, apprentice lineworkers must study 10 subjects and pass a proctored test for each one. After 12 months of on-the-job training and successfully completing a PDP module made up of 10 subjects, the apprentice progresses to the next classification and the next module.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TITUS

WELCOME TO THE CO-OP: Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative would like to introduce Titus Sheets, center, a newly hired third-year apprentice lineman, and his family to the membership. Shown, from left are: his son, Rylan; his wife, Brooke; Sheets; his sons, Colton and Deegan; and his daughter, Gabriella. Please join us in welcoming them to the co-op.

Subjects include everything from transformer banking to proper grounding, personal protective equipment (PPE), knot-tying, switching, SCADA and automation, basic rigging, electrical theory, OSHA, and more. The modules cover subjects that may not be taught in the field. SCREC believes that class work complimenting on-the-job-training prepares a lineworker to perform their job to the best and safest of their ability.

In addition to completing PDP, Titus and our other lineworkers must participate in training courses offered by the PREA JT&S program. These in-person training classes include basic, intermediate, and advanced rubber glove and sticking, chainsaw, basic climbing, underground, transformer, regulator, substation, metering, digger derrick operating, stringing and sagging, and winching schools.

Titus lives in Tivoli with his wife, Brooke, four children, Deegan, Gabriella, Rylan, and Colton, and their dogs, cats, and chickens. He's an avid fisherman – especially fly fishing – and enjoys riding his on/off-road Suzuki motorcycle.

Please join everyone at SCREC as we welcome Titus to the co-op!