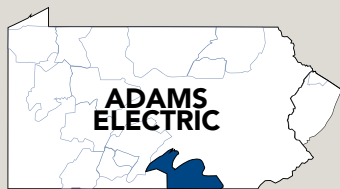




Adams Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives
serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

Adams Electric Cooperative, Inc.

1338 Biglerville Road
P.O. Box 1055
Gettysburg, PA 17325-1055
1-800-726-2324

Gettysburg District

1380 Biglerville Road
Gettysburg, PA 17325

York District

200 Trinity Road
York, PA 17408

Shippensburg District

10 Duncan Road
P.O. Box 220
Shippensburg, PA 17257

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*By pre-scheduled appointment only

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Local Pages Editor: Kami Noel, CCC

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From the CEO/General Manager



Working with local legislators

By Steve Rasmussen

“ALL POLITICS IS LOCAL.” This observation by the late Thomas P. “Tip” O’Neill Jr., former speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, means that even national politics have a local impact, and people care most about issues that directly affect them. Indirectly, this famous adage underscores the importance and value of local politics.

At Adams Electric, we think it’s critically important to develop and cultivate relationships with local legislators because they craft, introduce, and vote on legislation that impacts local businesses, the environment, and quality of life for our rural community. We work closely with our local elected officials. After all, our purpose is to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy, but our mission is to help those we serve.

Adams Electric helps power economic development and prosperity for our region. As a cooperative, we have deep roots here, and we listen closely to our members to better understand the needs of those around us. Our leadership, board members, and employees live and work right here in the communities we serve.

We strive to be an advocate for our communities, ensuring that local legislators know, understand and act on the issues that are important to our area. In December, we hosted an energy workshop for local legislators to review some of the co-op’s local, statewide, and national legislative priorities, including the costs of providing power, rate stability, system reliability, power supply, broadband and local needs.

We recognize that most legislators’ expertise may not include the changing energy industry, which is why Adams Electric is a reliable resource for lawmakers. We work with elected officials regardless of their party affiliation, and while we appreciate their willingness to work with the cooperative on energy-related matters, it does not mean that we agree with everything they say or do.

Today’s energy landscape is an increasingly complex topic, covering not only the traditional engineering and vegetation management aspects of the industry, but also encompassing technology, cybersecurity, the electrification of the transportation sector, and connecting communities through fiber.

Our employees can provide briefings to legislators and their staff. And because we’re involved in economic development and we know local community leaders, we can provide insight on how issues and policies might impact our region.

We periodically invite legislators and their staff to the co-op for tours, so they can see firsthand how we operate and can view our dispatch center, substations, EV charging stations, etc. We strive to be a trusted resource on energy issues. We continue to invest in the long-term interests of our members.

We’re proud to power your life and bring good things to our communities. We hope you’ll continue to advise us on matters of importance to you, so we can continue to advocate on your behalf and improve the quality of life for all those we serve. ☀

COMMUNITYconnections

POWERING LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

Church to host local Shine-Thru prom for students

Sarah Frank, *Communications/Community Relations Coordinator*

RED CARPETS, paparazzi and flashing camera bulbs are usually reserved for celebrities in Hollywood. But this month, local students will receive this first-class treatment at the Night to Shine event on Friday, Feb. 11, in Chambersburg.

Night to Shine is a prom exclusively for those 14 and older with physical and/or intellectual disabilities. The event is hosted nationally by the Tim Tebow Foundation. Locally, King Street Church has partnered with Antrim Brethren in Christ Church to host. In 2021, 537 churches and 175,000 volunteers in 48 states and 16 countries came together to honor 90,000 guests with special needs.

“The event is a celebration of the value of life,” the Tim Tebow Foundation says. “It is a rare opportunity for them to enjoy a celebration of this magnitude.”

A Night to Shine was first held in 2015. The local event hosted by King Street Church is celebrating its sixth year. At the event, guests arrive in their finest gowns and tuxes, which they can pick out at a boutique before the event. Once they arrive, they are

adorned with corsages and boutonnieres and walk the red carpet. Before entering the event, each is crowned king or queen.

“Every guest has a buddy that walks them through the evening,” says Jim Roberts, Night to Shine Committee member. “If the ladies want a beauty treatment, there are hairdressers and beauticians on-site to give them the glam they deserve. The guys can go and get their shoes shined. They have a delicious meal, spend time on the dance floor or take a limousine ride. Special meals are provided for those with food allergies. There is a DJ for the evening, and karaoke to display their talents. For those with sensitivity issues, there is a sensory room they can go in to regroup and refocus.”

The 2022 event will be virtual and will include a drive-through portion aptly named, “The Shine-Thru Event.”

“After years of hosting in-person events, the pandemic hit and the Tim Tebow Foundation decided to go virtual, and we adapted,” Roberts says.

Guests will still dress for the event, roads will be lined with onlookers taking photos, and at the end, they will receive a

special gift bag, meal, and their crown. A DJ, big-screen and music will also be a part of the Shine-Thru prom. After driving through, guests will return home, enjoy their meal, open gift bags and watch a live simulcast online, where Tim Tebow and other special guests will host the program. Guests are then encouraged to send in their photos, which are posted on a website for the public to view.

The event is hosted with the help of volunteers and donations from local organizations. Adams Electric has been a donor for the last several years. More information, registration and photos of past events can be found at nighttoshine2022.com. ❁



KING ME: Every attendee at a Night to Shine event gets a crown and earns the title of prom king or queen.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE KING STREET CHURCH AND NIGHT TO SHINE



ROYAL WAVE: Guests of the 2021 Shine-Thru event in Chambersburg receive the royal treatment as they drive through paparazzi and fanfare on their way home to watch the live event unfold online.

Chamberlin named Shippensburg superintendent

Michael “Mike” Chamberlin, staking technician A for Adams Electric, has been chosen to fill the position of line superintendent in the Shippensburg District. Effective Dec. 13, 2021, he took on this new role and began training with outgoing Superintendent Dave Bolton, who retired Jan. 8. Chamberlin will report to Mike Feathers, manager of operations.



Mike Chamberlin

Chamberlin is a native of Shippensburg. He started with Adams Electric’s engineering department as a staking technician B in 2008 and was promoted to staking technician A in 2015. Before his career with the co-op, Chamberlin worked in various supervisory roles at Roadway Express and Shippensburg Leasing Corporation. He is a graduate of Shippensburg University and currently lives with his wife, Lori, in Shippensburg. ❁

Staking tech earns step up

Effective Jan. 3, Mike McKinney was promoted to staking technician A in the engineering department at the Gettysburg District.

He started with Adams Electric in January 2013 as a first-year apprentice in the operations department and



Mike McKinney

transferred to staking in 2015. ❁



CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY: Members of the Cashtown Community Fire Company, Adams County, pose with new iPads that were purchased through funds donated by the cooperative. Shown with the iPads for each unit of the company’s fire apparatus are, from left, Fire Chief Jeff Bowling, Deputy Chief Brent Strasbaugh and Assistant Chief Scott Bowling. Before the donation, the department had been using iPads that were more than 10 years old. The iPads are used for directions, hydrant location, hazmat info and facilities plans.



POLITICAL INTERACTION: A Legislative Energy Workshop and breakfast was held Dec. 16 with local legislators from across the cooperative’s service area to discuss rates, system reliability, community involvement, legislative priorities, power supply and other topics of interest to the co-op. Shown above, from left, with the co-op’s “Willie Wiredhand” Christmas tree, are board President Glenn Bange, CEO Steve Rasmussen and U.S. Congressman John Joyce.

ROW coordinator continuing vegetation cycles

Sarah Frank, *Communications/Community Relations Coordinator*

ADAMS Electric's Right of Way Coordinator Michelle "Mickey" Brandt has practiced forestry all over the world, including Ecuador. For the past year, she has been working locally for the cooperative.

Brandt joined the co-op in September 2020 due to the then-upcoming retirement of longtime employee Rich Redding. Before coming to the co-op, she was a utility forester with Metropolitan-Edison (Met-Ed) in York County. During her time with Met-Ed, Brandt worked in preventive maintenance and trouble trees, as well as dispatching tree crews.

"I liked the idea of a co-op," Brandt says of her move to Adams. "Plus, most foresters like to be, well, in the forest! Adams is a more rural territory."

Brandt holds a degree in wildlife-forestry technology from Penn State University — DuBois and is an ISA certified arborist. She performed Agroforestry with the Peace Corps in Ecuador, South America, from 1999 to 2001. Brandt also served as a Pennsylvania State Park ranger for two seasons at Gifford Pinchot State Park in York County.

Brandt started with the co-op just as Adams was wrapping up its second cycle of a four-year comprehensive tree maintenance program. Every right of way is inspected and receives preventive maintenance once every four years. After moving to a more comprehensive program, Adams has seen reliability go up.

"The co-op puts a lot of money into the program," Brandt says. "We're doing it for the safety of the membership and reliability of the system. It's fantastic. Not all utilities do that."

Keeping rights of way clean and free of debris allows crews greater access in storm situations and power outages. Regular maintenance helps reduce the length of time it takes to access and eventually restore an outage.

Additionally, it increases safety for



IMPROVING RELIABILITY: Adams Electric Right of Way Coordinator Michelle "Mickey" Brandt inspects a pin oak and tags it as a hazard tree based on a split in the upper portion of the trunk. Adams routinely inspects and identifies hazard or trouble trees to help improve reliability.

both the members and line crews. Wires that come down during storm and wind events can get tangled in bushes and debris. This can impede safety measures on the wire that de-energize the line. (Remember: Always stay away from any downed wire or line you see and call the co-op immediately.)

Brandt wants the membership to remember that outage numbers should continue to trend downward as the co-op completes more tree management cycles.

"I'm amazed at how clean and controlled the rights of way are," Brandt says. "It's safer. It helps prevent outages."

Since the program was revamped in 2011, total member outage hours have decreased. Additionally, tree-related outages have decreased.

"Trees are always going to be a cause of outages unless you remove every single tree," says Chad Thoman, manager of engineering — electrical. "But you can see from our numbers



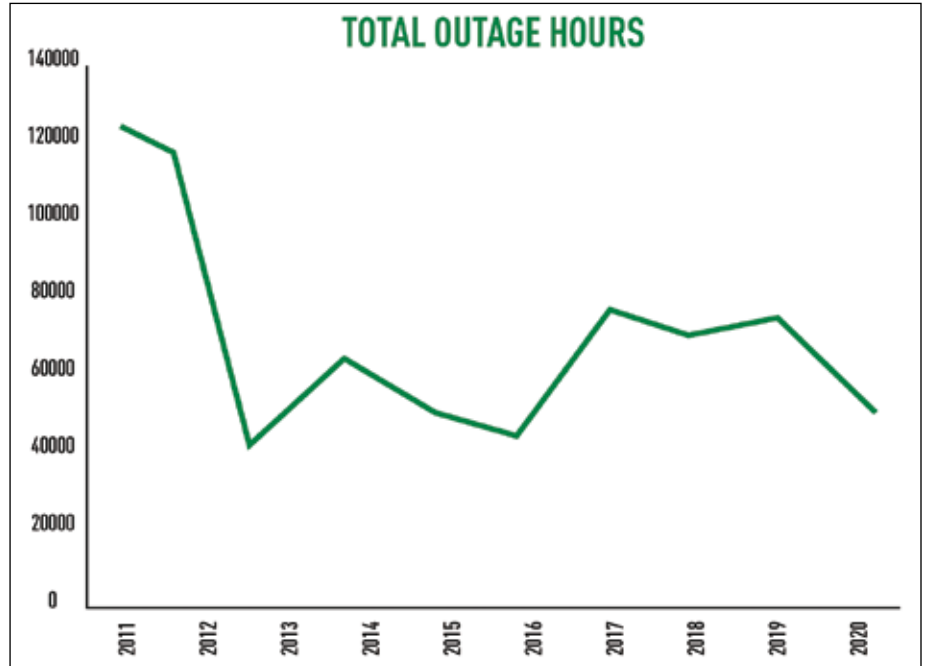
EASIER ACCESS: A recently trimmed and maintained right of way near Taylor Hill Road in Glen Rock will allow for easier access for crews when an outage occurs.

that we have not been as impacted by major events as we were prior to changing the tree program to a four-year cycle. Our system has been more resilient against storms, and the one big variable is the change in tree trimming.”

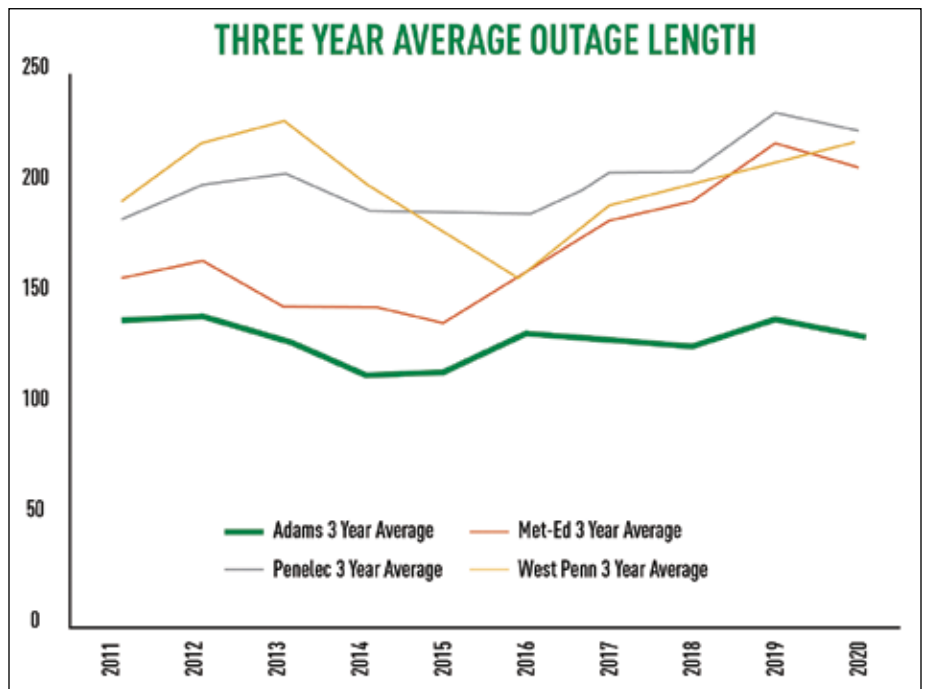
If your property is on the route for the year’s vegetation management cycle, you will be notified in two ways. A few months before work is scheduled at your property, you will receive a postcard notification by mail. No further action is needed. Closer to the work date, a representative from a tree-trimming contractor crew will visit your property to plan the scope of work expected. Keep in mind, all contractors who are hired to work for the co-op will have an Adams Electric contractor ID with them. If you are unsure about who is visiting your property, please contact the cooperative for confirmation.

We’re all in this together, members can help by:

- ▶ Planting the right tree in the right place; never plant vegetation too close to or under power lines.
- ▶ Following all instructions posted on electrical equipment.



MANAGING VEGETATION GROWTH: Above, the Total Outage Hours chart shows the number of annual hours all members were without power by year. Since increasing its right-of-way clearing cycle to every four years, Adams Electric’s total outage hours have decreased and remained relatively stable, despite major storm events. Below, the Three Year Average Outage Length chart shows Adams’ members experience shorter outages on average compared to local investor-owned power companies. This three-year graph illustrates the stability of Adams’ system since becoming more comprehensive in its right-of-way clearing practices.



- ▶ Reporting any trees that may threaten the cooperative’s service.
- ▶ Cooperating with Adams in its efforts to provide dependable and safe electricity by maintaining easement areas.

“A lot of members appreciate Adams Electric,” Brandt says. “That’s one of the first things I hear when I go out to a member’s property. They love Adams. It’s really nice working with people who are looking at the co-op that way.” 🌻