



**Ken
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**Owner of Slate
Belt Energy
Services**

Exclusively in the Blue Valley Times

Elephant in the Room

Knowing what makes insulation effective makes it pretty easy to decide what kind you want in your attic or walls. I install it and I use whichever produce will be the best value. Notice I didn't say cheapest. Since insulation is a long term investment, you may spend a little more up front to save a lot more in the long run. Energy moves in only 3 ways and they are convection, conduction and radiation. Radiation doesn't apply too much here so I will explain the other 2 as they pertain to attic and wall insulation. Your drink cup uses air as its insulation because air is actually a very good insulator when it is perfectly still. Energy moves from one molecule to the next trying to equalize. That takes a long time so temperatures stay pretty stable. Cellulose insulation uses cellular fibers that have air in each cell to stabilize temperatures. The density of the insulation prevents air on the surface of the ceiling which is heated by conduction through drywall from just rising up and leaving the building. It is like a foot thick blanket in your attic. It conforms to every shape and intricacy of the space and smothers the house in warmth in winter. Fiberglass, on the other hand, is made of well, glass. More specifically, tiny fibers that are supposed to trap air in their web and use it for insulation. When you cut the plastic off of a bundle it expands and takes in air to do its job. But it doesn't do very well unless it is installed in a space that is air tight because air moves through fiberglass at an alarming rate. It doesn't conform to odd shapes and is usually cut wrong and not installed anywhere near as well as it should be to work effectively. In an attic it is never in a closed cavity so it never reaches the R value on the package. Even in walls there is air leakage that degrades the ratings of fiberglass. Another important point is that fiberglass does not slow the spread of fire much at all. Cellulose blocks it almost completely. Maybe the cellulose industry needs a mascot like the fiberglass industry. Instead of the pink panther maybe they should adopt The Elephant in The Room. I have insulated hundreds of homes with cellulose and I know they perform better than any home insulated with fiberglass. But since energy is cheap and comfort doesn't really matter, builders will just keep using the itchy stuff and ignoring that gray gold made from post-consumer content.

Someday I will get to say I told you so.

Ken Field is the owner of Slate Belt Energy and Field's Service, Inc. As a certified energy rater and contractor, he is qualified to assess every aspect of energy usage and prescribe solutions to save energy. He can be reached at 610-759-6306 or email Ken@FieldsService.com

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Scholarship Guidelines and Application

I. General Overview

Slate Belt Rising (SBR) may at its discretion, award scholarship grants (\$1000) on behalf of individuals (paid directly to qualified educational institutions or for the purchase of tools), which grants may be used exclusively for tuition at post-secondary educational institutions that normally maintain a regular faculty and curriculum, and for fees, books, supplies, and equipment required for courses at such institutions, for room and board expenses payable to the institution, or the purchase of tools for a student entering the workforce in a trade. Scholarship grants will usually be administered through scholarship funds as allocated through the Slate Belt Rising Neighborhood Partnership Program. The Slate Belt, Rising Community Engagement Committee, will approve all scholarship programs established by such Scholarship Funds in advance of any solicitation of applications. The Steering Committee will make the ultimate decision regarding scholarship award distributions. Grants will be awarded for one year.

II. Scholarship Selection Process

A. Criteria for Selection

The Committee will develop appropriate scholarship purposes and criteria. The Committee will review the proposed purposes of each scholarship to ensure that such purposes are consistent with the Slate Belt Rising's charitable purposes and its mission. The Committee shall review and shall have final approval authority over the adopted criteria for each scholarship.

The scholarship criteria must be "objective and nondiscriminatory." The selection criteria must also be reasonably related to the purposes of the scholarship. Criteria may include, but need not be limited to: prior academic performance, performance on tests designed to measure ability and aptitude for college work, recommendations from instructors, financial need, and the conclusions that the selection committee might draw from a personal interview or written statement as to the individual's motivation, character, ability, and potential.

All scholarship applicants shall submit an application, which shall include a biographical record and supporting material, including letters of recommendation, grade transcripts, and special awards. The Committee will develop the scholarship application form for each scholarship. The Committee shall have ultimate approval authority over all application forms.

For more information and how to apply go to :
www.slatebeltrising.org

Public Comment Regarding PPL Settlement Open Now

By Senator Rosemary Brown

STROUDSBURG - In late 2022 and early 2023, PPL customers experienced unusually high or low estimated bills, missing monthly bills and inadequate customer service support resulting in customers' inability to reach PPL Call Center representatives to discuss their billing concerns.

To address those issues, the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) will evaluate and consider a joint settlement. As part of the evaluation, a public comment period regarding the proposed settlement is active through Feb. 28.

Customers may submit a comment by e-filing through the PUC or sending a written comment at the address below. All comments should reference the docket number of the case: M-2023-3038060.



ELECTRIC BILL

