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Global caring – PPL engineer volunteers in Sierra Leone

Jose Silverio likes to give time to help others when he gets the chance. So much so that, in January, he traveled almost 4,500 miles to lend a hand.

Silverio (third from right in photo) was one of five engineers from the Lehigh Valley who spent two weeks in the West African town of Mattru, Sierra Leone, as part of an Engineers Without Borders volunteer trip. Engineers Without Borders designs and builds projects to help communities meet basic needs, such as water and reliable energy.

During long days of hands-on work, the engineers built a toilet facility for outpatients

at a hospital. They also checked in on an earlier project at a school involving a solar electricity installation, a clean water connection and sanitation facilities.

“When we do something for communities, we want it to be sustainable, so they can maintain whatever we built,” said Silverio, a PPL Electric Utilities support engineer. “We wanted to make sure all the facilities were working and they were maintaining them.”

According to the CIA’s World Factbook, only about 13 percent of Sierra Leone’s 6.1 million people have access to improved sanitation facilities, and only about 5 percent have

access to electricity. The country also is extremely poor, with 70 percent of the population below the poverty line.

“It’s a really poor place. They need a lot of support -- educational support, as well as monetary,” Silverio said. “I would definitely go back on another trip if the opportunity arose.”

He may have a chance: According to Silverio, the engineers plan a future project to build sanitation facilities for the hospital’s pediatric ward. The group also has an active project in the Dominican Republic, Silverio’s home country.

? Ask Meg

Q I know it’s only April, but I’m already dreaming about turning on my air-conditioning at the first sign of consistently warm weather. How can I save energy and money in the process?

A I’m with you in thinking about warmer weather. I like to be comfortable in the summer, but I also play it smart. The federal Department of Energy says simple things like replacing or cleaning air filters can lower your cooling system’s energy use by up to 15 percent. They also advise cleaning the system’s evaporator coil every year for best performance. Here’s to chilling out!



Have a question for our energy expert? Email us at connect@pplweb.com.



Here & Now partners left to right: Karl Schloesser, Steven Propst and Allaina Propst.

Saving energy and money: Here and Now

Sustainability is part of Allaina Propst's DNA, so when she started turning a vintage building in downtown Honesdale into the Here & Now brewery and restaurant, energy efficiency was important.

Propst and her partners took advantage of PPL's energy-efficiency programs and were able to get rebates on equipment like the glycol chiller for beer production, the ice maker and dishwasher.

"They made it very easy for me," she said, adding that rebates helped with the upfront cost of the equipment. Plus, there's the long-term energy savings. "Every penny counts," she said.

Here & Now opened for business in January 2017, and its restaurant debuted in May of last year.

PPL Key Account Manager Brian Stafford said Here & Now is a great example of how PPL's energy-efficiency programs are working to help customers. Are you looking for ways to save at a business? Visit pplelectric.com/businessrebates.

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Community Roots trees coming soon

If you ordered trees for spring planting through our new Community Roots program, deliveries will be made during April and early May, depending on what size tree you ordered. We'll notify you ahead of time when to expect your trees.



Overall this year, we'll give away about 20,000 trees to qualifying groups.

We think Community Roots is a great way to beautify

our communities and help the planet at the same time. Check out pplelectric.com/environment for more information.



A stamp for camp

Going paperless in April benefits YMCA facility in Luzerne County

More and more PPL customers are going paperless and that's a good thing.

It's always convenient, secure and a time saver. And during April, it's also going to help Camp Kresge, the Wilkes-Barre Family YMCA's 1,100-acre facility in the Poconos.

For every customer who goes paperless during April, we'll donate the cost of a stamp to Camp Kresge, a facility that's been providing fun for kids and families since 1953.

Ditch the stamp. Help the camp. You'll be glad you did. For more information about paperless billing and to enroll, visit pplelectric.com/paperless.

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