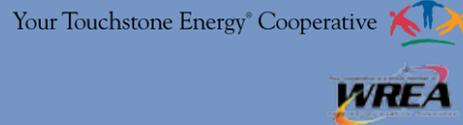


Manager's Message



October is recognized as National Cooperative Month and as a member of Big Horn REA you are part of that recognition.

From the 1939 minute book of Big Horn REA it reads "The aim of the Big Horn Rural Electric Company (hereinafter called the "Cooperative") is to make electric energy available to its members at the lowest cost consistent with sound economy and good management." Upholding this mission is still a vital part of the decisions and processes Big Horn undertakes every day in meeting the electrical needs of our members.

Being a member of your local cooperative provides you with value in several ways. That is, you have an opportunity to become involved and help make decisions by attending the annual meeting and district meetings. You can attend a board meeting and provide your input. Also any revenues in excess of expenses are allocated as capital credits and refundable. In 2013, Big Horn refunded \$675,000.00 in capital credits which means in the past 10 years \$2.5 million has been refunded back to member/owners.

Big Horn operates on an efficient and sound financial basis to provide the life changing product of electricity. Big Horn has been able to utilize and aggregate the resources to build an infrastructure of power lines and substations for the betterment of serving its members. However, a member is still responsible for a portion of the costs to serve their electric needs based upon the facilities required to be built. Also, costs incurred by the cooperative to re-

pair or replace equipment damaged by a member, are generally required to be paid by that member.

As a member, you have access to the board members and employees. If you have questions or concerns, we would encourage you to contact us. Big Horn wants to say thanks to all its member/owners for their patronage.

Thanks again and remember to BE SAFE.



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Fall is here, and that means colder months will be here before we know it. Is your home prepared for the drafts that may enter? Tight-fitting insulating drapes or shades are a perfect way to keep the heat in and the cold out.

Source: Department of Energy

HIGHLIGHTS

VOL. 35, ISSUE 9

Look for us online @ www.bighornrea.com

OCTOBER 2014

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH



Big Horn Rural Electric is inviting all to celebrate cooperatives in Wyoming – and across America – during National Cooperative Month.

Every October, cooperatives are recognized for the qualities that make the business model unique. Seven cooperative principles set us apart from other businesses: voluntary and open membership; democratic member control; member's economic participation; autonomy and independence; education,

training and information; co-operation among cooperatives; and concern for community.

This Co-op Month, we're focusing on "The Electric Co-op Connection: Discover the meaning of membership." Co-ops exist to serve their members, but they also play a major role in their local communities.

"Cooperative membership is unique," says Manager Jeff Umphlett. "Electric cooperatives are committed to providing members with safe, reliable and affordable electricity, but

there's more to it than that. We're local, and that means we care about our community. This is why we participate in programs such as Operation RoundUp®, Youth Tour, safety demonstrations, scholarships, energy camp, etc."

Big Horn REA is proud to be part of America's cooperative network, which includes more than 47,000 cooperative businesses.

HIGHLIGHTS

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BIG HORN RURAL
ELECTRIC COMPANY
Box 270 VOLUME 35 NO. 9
Basin, WY 82410 (307) 568-2419
FAX 307-568-24021-800-564-2419
bhrec@bighornrea.com
www.bighornrea.com

MANAGER: Jeff Umphlett
(307) 899-8153
jeff@bighornrea.com

Staff and Crew

John Balch	Kyle Reimer
Clint Getzfreid	Fred Sherburne
Todd Herman	Gael Sosa
Carrie Hunt	Ron Tilley
Sheila Kampbell	Kendal Wambeke
Bill Phillips	Colton Whisonant

For Outages or Trouble

Call the office number: **ANYTIME**
(307) 568-2419 or 1-800-564-2419

After 5 p.m., weekends and holidays all calls will be answered by our professional answering service, who will contact the appropriate person(s).

Big Horn Rural Electric Company is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Board of Directors

Tom Delaney President
Greybull • 765-4732
tomdelaney@bighornrea.com

Kathy Gilbreath Vice President
Meeteetse • 868-2261
kathygilbreath@bighornrea.com

John Joyce Secretary
Manderson • 568-2514
njoyce@tctwest.net

Don Russell Treasurer
Basin • 568-2019
donrussell@tctwest.net

Charles Monk Ass't. Secretary
Lovell • 548-6686
charliemonk@bighornrea.com

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QUOTE

You have to learn the rules of the game. And then you have to play better than anyone else.
Albert Einstein

TRIVIA

QUESTION: How many times would cooperatively owned distribution power lines circle the equator?
ANSWER: U.S. electric cooperatives own 2.5 million miles of distribution lines—enough to circle the equator more than 100 times!

Don't Get Lost in the Shuffle

Six hundred pages, plus another 1,000 of supporting documents – that's the length of the latest proposal from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). It would amend the Clean Air Act (only 465 pages) to limit carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from the power plants on which we rely today.

Besides the actual rule, a lot has been written about its legality, feasibility and complexity. But lost in the shuffle of these thousands of pages is the impact on people. How much will electric bills increase? Will manufacturers relocate? How many jobs will be lost? Which power plants will be forced to shut down?

These are difficult questions. But they're important questions. At Big Horn REA, we work hard to keep your electricity affordable and reliable. That's why we're asking the EPA for answers to these and many other questions.

We don't want you to get lost in the shuffle. We put you – our members – first. We advocate for you. We see you every month paying your bill at the office. We work with you. We know when times are tough. We often live next door.

After all, you govern us. Our board members and community leaders are one in the same. We're as local as any organization, and we like it that way.

That's why we keep reminding the bureaucrats in Washington, D.C., that the rules they

write have an impact in the real world – where we live. That's why we're encouraging everyone to take 30 seconds to sign up at www.Action.coop and tell the EPA we cannot afford these regulations.

Please raise your voice. Don't get lost in the shuffle. Together, we can tell the EPA that support for the environment and a true all-of-the-above energy policy are not mutually exclusive. Together we'll remind regulators and lawmakers that the impact new rules and laws have on people should be their first thought, not their last.

With more than 900 electric cooperatives in the country backing us up, our voice can be heard. We have a great and positive story to tell. We can tell the story together. And it won't even take 1,600 pages. Please take a moment to visit www.Action.coop today.

The new EPA rule threatens jobs and increases costs. Over half a million Americans have told the EPA this simply won't work.

Please join us and let your voice be heard. Together, we can tell the EPA that support for the environment and a true all-of-the-above energy policy are not mutually exclusive.

Visit www.Action.coop

Weather Stripping Your Home

There is no doubt about it; the cold weather is on its way. Not only is it important to make sure that your heating unit is working properly, but you should check your home to make sure that none of that heat is escaping.

The great thing about all of this is that weather stripping is easy! There is an assortment of materials available to you (like rubber, foam, metal, etc.) and they are all inexpensive. Once you have purchased what you need, keep the following in mind before you begin weather stripping: be sure the surface

is dry and clean, measure the area more than once for best accuracy, and apply so that strips compress both sides of the window or door.

To weather strip windows:

- Place the stripping between the frame and the sash.
- Be sure that it compresses the window when shut.
- Check to make sure that the stripping does not interfere with the moving of the window.

To weather strip doors:

- Choose the proper sweeps and thresholds for your door.

- Weather-strip the entire door jamb.
- Make sure the stripping meets tightly at both corners.
- Use a thickness that allows for a tight press between the door and the floor, but one that does not make the door difficult to shut.

Cold weather will be here before we know it! Is your house prepped for winter chills? Make sure heat is not escaping through drafts near windows and doors.

What will I need to weather strip doors and windows?

There are a variety of materials available to strip your home. Here are a few options to help you choose:

***Apply weather stripping around the door frame and stop. At the bottom of a door, install a door sweep, door shoe or threshold; or apply reinforced-foam weather stripping. Apply stripping at the top and bottom of window sash.**

FELT

Reinforced with a flexible metal strip. Should be stapled, glued or tacked into place.

Cost: Low

Advantage: Easy to install and inexpensive.

Disadvantage: Low durability. Do not use where exposed to a great deal of moisture. All-wool felt is more durable but very visible.

ROLLED OR REINFORCED VINYL

Pliable or rigid strip gasket (attached to wood or metal strips).

Cost: Low to moderate.

Advantage: Easy installation, various colors to help with visibility and some types of rigid strip gaskets provide slot holes for height adjustment.

Disadvantage: Can be difficult to install and very visible.

REINFORCED FOAM

Closed-cell foam attached to wood or metal strips.

Cost: Moderately low.

Advantage: Effective sealer, rigid, proven to work well.

Disadvantage: Can be difficult to install and very visible.

Source: Department of Energy

*For more weather stripping options, visit <http://energy.gov/energysaver/articles/weatherstripping>

