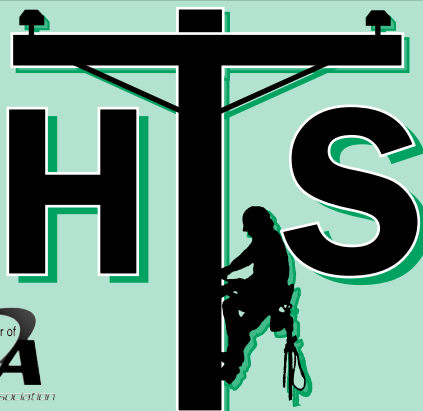


September 2014

HIGHLIGHTS

From Big Horn Rural Electric Company

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Electricity Remains A Good Value

In today's world, you won't find many items that cost less than \$5. You can purchase a gallon of milk, a gallon of gas or a Big Mac® meal from McDonald's. But did you know that an average days' worth of electricity costs less than \$5?

Even in our country's shifting energy climate, electricity remains a

sity and an expectation. We expect the lights to come on when we flip the switch, and we expect our power to stay on during the best and worst conditions. How else would we keep our food fresh, our homes cool in the summer or warm in the winter? It is easy to cut a Big Mac® out of your spending routine here and there to save a few dollars. But we cannot simply cut electricity out of our budgets if times get tough or we decide that we want to scale back our spending in order to save.

Perhaps that is why it is so upsetting to us when our rates increase, even if only in small increments. It is nearly

impossible for us to think about what our lives would be like if we did not have electricity. If at times it doesn't seem that electricity is affordable, remember - even as the demand for electricity grows -cost increases still remain low, especially when compared to other consumer goods such as medical care, education, gasoline and, yes, even Big Macs®. Electricity is still a great bargain. And also remember this: your local electric cooperative is committed to making sure that you and your family always have safe, reliable and affordable electric service in your home.

So the next time you crave a Big Mac®, remember your electric bill, and think about what a great deal you're getting for your dollar!

Did you know the average daily cost of electricity is \$3.58? Nowadays, electricity is considered a necessity, and we need it to power our busy lives. Compared to other items we consider necessities – that's a pretty good deal!

good value. In fact, electricity has the lowest cost per day of any of the items listed above. And not all of those items are necessary for daily life!

Think about your daily necessities (electricity and gasoline, to name a couple), and then think about the cost of the special treats we allow ourselves to purchase on a weekly basis (maybe even on a daily basis for some items!). We don't often question the cost of a Big Mac® meal - it costs over \$1 more to buy a Big Mac® meal than it does to purchase a day's worth of power. And yet, we frequently become upset if our electricity rates rise.

It makes sense; we have become increasingly reliant upon electricity. Electricity has, for many of us, gone from a luxury commodity to a neces-

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Stay Away...Stay Alive



Each year a number of accidents involving contact with high-voltage power lines occur, often resulting in serious injury or death. Big Horn REA is committed to distributing electricity safely, but we need your help to ensure your safety and the safety of our employees.

Federal and state governments, in an effort to prevent these types of accidents, have enacted laws to provide safer working conditions in areas around high voltage power

lines. These laws generally make it illegal for an individual to work closer than 10 feet to or to permit any tool, equipment or other object within 10 feet of an energized overhead power line.

The following safety tips will help prevent accidental contact with overhead power lines; however, the most important element of accident prevention is to make safety the number one priority.

➔ Always look for power lines before beginning any type

of construction work. Pre-job planning is a major factor in preventing accidents.

➔ Never work closer than 10 feet to a power line.

➔ Lower truck beds, aerial lifts, booms and other construction equipment before passing under power lines.

➔ Keep ladders, scaffolding, antennas and other equipment 10 feet or more away from power lines.

➔ Designate one person as a “watcher” on the ground to guide machine operators whose vision may be obstructed.

➔ Keep fellow workers aware of the hazards of power line contacts.

➔ Never touch a fallen wire or any object that is in contact with a wire. Always assume that a fallen wire is energized and keep clear of it.

➔ Never use aluminum or metal ladders near power lines.

➔ Even though they look harmless, ALWAYS stay away from pad mounted underground transformers and enclosures.

In case of a contact, please take the following steps: keep everyone away from the equipment. Caution the operator not to leave the equipment until the power line has been de-energized by Big Horn REA and grounded. If it becomes necessary to leave the equipment, jump entirely free with both feet together so that no parts of the body are in contact with the equipment and the ground at the same time. Call Big Horn REA and 911. Do not touch any person, vehicle or equipment that is in contact with the wires. If a person does contact electrified equipment,

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Buy a New Appliance? We May Have a Rebate for You

Earn extra savings! When you upgrade to energy efficient equipment in your home, you'll help lower your electric bill and qualify for rebates.

Rebates are available on **Energy Star** refrigerators and freezers, clothes washers, dishwashers, heat pumps, electric water heaters and air conditioners. In order to qualify, you must be a member of Big Horn Rural Electric, *you must*

let us know of your purchase within 180 days, the appliance must be installed in a location served by Big Horn Rural Electric, the appliance must be Energy Star or qualifying model and we will need a copy of the receipt. You may find Energy Star qualified appliances at www.energystar.gov.

Once you have made your purchase, give us a call! It's just that simple. We will gather some

basic information, have you mail us a copy of your receipt and we will submit the rebate form to Tri-State G & T (our power supplier). Tri-State will process the request and send Big Horn Rural Electric a check. *AND.....through 2014, Big Horn REA's Board of Directors has generously decided to match Tri-State's rebate amount!* Call us today to find out if your purchase qualifies.

TRI-STATE REBATE AMOUNTS

- Heat pumps** - \$85 - \$150 per ton; \$150 additional per Energy Star unit
- Water heaters** - \$50 per unit; \$25 per unit additional for lifetime tank warranty; \$25 per unit additional for low wattage elements. Super Efficient Unit - (primary heating by direct exchange ground source or air-source heat pump) - \$100 per unit; \$25 per unit additional for life time tank warranty
- Air Conditioners** - \$150 per unit Energy Star rated air-conditioners 3 tons and over
- Refrigerators** - \$40 per unit for full size Energy Star rated refrigerators
- Freezers** - \$40 per unit for full size Energy Star rated freezers
- Clothes Washers** - \$40 per unit for Energy Star rated clothes washers
- Dishwashers** - \$30 per unit for Energy Star dishwashers
- Electric Motors** - \$8 per horsepower for premium efficiency motors; minimum 10 horsepower

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CPR can be administered after the victim has been cleared from the contact and moved a reasonable distance.

Underground facilities may look harmless, but they are as dangerous as overhead power lines. If you should find a transformer that is open or has been knocked off its pad, stay away and notify Big Horn REA immediately.

Don't Forget

Don't forget to use your Co-op Connections card when you pick up your prescriptions! To date, *our members have saved over \$24,000* on prescriptions alone, just by showing the pharmacist their Co-op Connections card when filling a prescription. Be sure to take advantage of this co-op membership perk!

Co-op Connections® Card




Big Horn Rural Electric Company
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



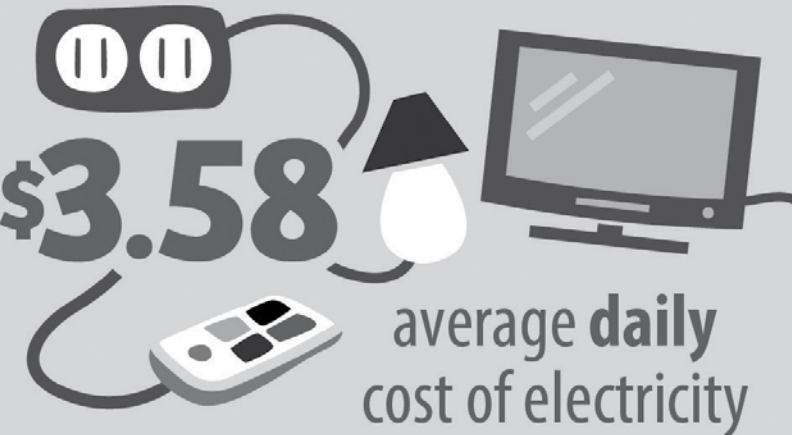
\$24,869.27 saved

If you've misplaced your card and would like a new one, please call our office at 1-800-564-2419

THE VALUE OF *Electricity*



\$4.62 average cost of a **Big Mac** meal



\$3.58 average **daily** cost of electricity

Electricity is expressed on a daily basis using EIA 2012 Average U.S. Monthly Residential Bill of \$107

HIGHLIGHTS

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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 pro-
fessional answering service, who will
contact the appropriate person(s).

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



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

When it's hot outside, appliances and lighting can actually heat up our homes more than we think. To save energy, minimize the activities that generate additional heat, such as burning open flames, continuously running a computer, or using hot-hair devices like curling irons. This will ultimately keep your house cooler.

Source: Department of Energy