



Big Horn Rural
Electric Company

HIGHLIGHTS

LOOK FOR US ONLINE AT WWW.BIGHORNREA.COM

Photo submitted by:
Josselyn Jara



SAVING ENERGY DURING PEAK TIMES BENEFITS ALL



Conserving electricity during peak energy use times not only lowers your monthly bill—it can benefit our entire community.

“Peak times” refer to periods of the day when the demand for electricity is highest. Think early mornings when people are getting ready for work or school and evenings when families return home, cook dinner and unwind with electronics. When everyone uses energy at once, it adds pressure on the electric grid.

Big Horn REA works around the clock to ensure that electricity flows to your home whenever you need it. Behind the scenes, an enormous and intricate system is at work—one of the most complex machines in the world: the U.S. power grid. The grid is made up of three major interconnections that span the country, each managing supply and demand through regional authorities to keep the lights on and our economy running smoothly.

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October



1- Bills Sent Out
21- Auto Pay Day
26- October Bill Due
Co-op Month

November



2- Bills Sent Out
11- Office Closed(Veteran's Day)
21- Auto Pay Day
25- November Bill Due
26-27- Office
Closed(Thanksgiving)

SAVING ENERGY DURING PEAK TIMES BENEFITS ALL

Electricity comes from a diverse mix of sources—hydropower, natural gas, coal, solar, wind and more. Some power plants can respond quickly to spikes in demand, while others are less flexible. Once energy is generated, it travels through high-voltage transmission lines to local utilities, like Big Horn REA, which then delivers it to your home or business through distribution power lines.

When electricity demand surges during peak times, it's more expensive to generate or purchase power. If supply can't keep up, the risk of outages increases. That's why using less energy during peak times is more important than ever. It not only eases strain on the grid but also helps you save money.

So how can you "beat the peak"? Start by adjusting your thermostat a few degrees during peak times. Smart thermostats can automate this for you. Delay using energy-hungry appliances like ovens, clothes washers and dishwashers until later in the evening. Charging your electric vehicle overnight instead of right after you get home can also help.

Small actions taken by many households can lead to big results. When we all work together to reduce energy use during peak times, we protect our power grid, help control costs and ensure reliable electricity for our communities.

WHAT'S THE FUSS ABOUT **PEAK** ENERGY USAGE?

Peak energy demand is when energy consumption is at its highest.

In much of the U.S., energy use spikes in summer and winter due to increased energy demands for heating and cooling spaces.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY: <<< TIP OF THE MONTH

Don't let phantom energy haunt your electric bill this October. Many electronics continue using electricity even when they're turned off. TVs, gaming systems, coffee makers and phone chargers can quietly draw power around the clock. While each device uses only a small amount, the energy waste can add up over time. Before heading out for Halloween fun, unplug devices you don't use regularly or plug them into a smart power strip that automatically cuts power when equipment is off. It's a simple trick that can help keep phantom energy waste in check.

Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy



In the summer: Energy use spikes from mid- to late afternoon until evening.

In the winter: Energy use is higher in the early morning and then again in late afternoon/evening.



Adjusting when you use electricity can help even out energy use and avoid service interruptions caused by high demand.

LOCAL VOICES SHAPE LOCAL SOLUTIONS

When you hear the word cooperative, what comes to mind? As your local electric co-op, we hope you think of Big Horn REA.

Regardless of the services offered, all cooperatives have one thing in common: they're led by the people they serve—and that simple idea makes a meaningful difference.

Cooperatives come in all shapes and sizes, each created to meet a specific need. Credit unions help members save and borrow money. Producer cooperatives, like Ocean Spray and Land O'Lakes, help farmers bring their products to market. Retail cooperatives, like REI and ACE Hardware, are owned by their shoppers or a membership of store owners, while housing cooperatives give residents a voice in managing their communities. And utility cooperatives—like Big Horn REA—provide reliable electricity to the communities they serve.

Unlike many businesses that answer to outside investors or shareholders, cooperatives are built for their members. Their goal isn't simply to earn a profit—it's to provide value, meet unique local needs and strengthen the communities they call home.

That's exactly what makes Big Horn REA different.

Our story began in 1937 when neighbors came together to bring electricity to an area when other utilities wouldn't. While a lot has changed since then, our purpose has remained steady. We're still here to provide power and make decisions with our community's best interests in mind.

Being locally owned means we have the flexibility to focus on what matters most to the communities we serve. That's why no two electric cooperatives are exactly alike. Every community has different needs, and every cooperative reflects those priorities.

For some co-ops, that means expanding programs that help members save energy and money. Others may focus on supporting economic development, investing in new technology or creating new opportunities for local students. At Big Horn REA, we provide donations to community halls, restoration projects, fire departments and community events!

You'll also find the co-op difference in the little things. It's the lineworkers restoring power after a storm. The employees answering your questions when you call. The team members volunteering at community events. The board members—your neighbors—who help guide decisions for the future.

We're your neighbor and local energy partner, and we're committed to serving this community for generations to come.

This National Co-op Month, we invite you to join us in celebrating the cooperative difference, because this co-op belongs to you.

Whether it's Big Horn REA, your local credit union or ACE Hardware, cooperatives prove that when people work together, everyone benefits.

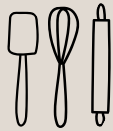
Your membership is what makes our mission possible—and it's what keeps us focused on serving the people and communities that matter most.



SCAM TIP OF THE MONTH

October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month, which is the perfect time to take a fresh look at your passwords. Forget the old advice about cramming passwords with symbols and random capitalization. Today's cybersecurity experts recommend using longer passphrases. A password made up of four or five unrelated words is easier to remember and much harder for criminals to crack than a short, complex password. Use a unique passphrase for every account and enable multi-factor authentication whenever available for added protection.

Source: NIST



Recipe

• made with love •



Name of the dish Frito Corn Salad

Ingredients

- 3 (15 oz) cans corn, drained
- 1 red bell pepper, chopped
- 2 jalapeños, seeded & chopped
- ¼ C red onion, chopped
- 1 (8 oz) bag of cheese
- ¼ C sour cream
- ¾ C mayonnaise
- 1 bag of Chili Cheese Fritos

Directions

- Gather all ingredients (chop, drain, etc.)
- In large bowl combine all ingredients and mix well.
- You can add the fritos in just before serving.



WANTED

We would love to hear from our members!



Got a scenic photo of a place on our grid or a recipe created by you?

Please email us at jazmin@bighornrea.com to have your photo or recipe added to our monthly newsletter!



If your submission is chosen to be published in our newsletter you will receive a \$25 bill credit!

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FOR OUTAGE OR TROUBLE

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

After 5:30 p.m., weekend and holidays all calls will be answered by our professional answering service, who will contact the appropriate person(s).



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