

# HIGHLIGHTS

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MAY 2023

# ANNUAL ELECTION VOTING 2023

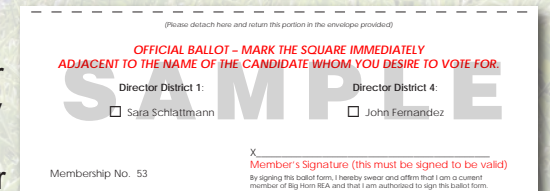
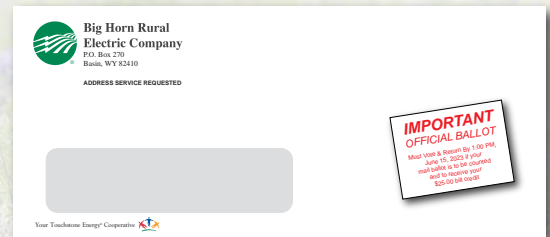
**A**t Big Horn REA, your voice matters. For decades we have been owned and governed by members like you. Your vote in our annual Board of Directors election is your voice in your cooperative, a chance to weigh in on leaders who will represent you and your interests.

Big Horn REA made the decision to forego the 2023 Annual Meeting. However, we will be holding a director election using mail-in ballots again this year. There is one board candidate for District #1 (Otto, Burlington, Emblem area) and one board candidate for District #4 (Meeteetse area) that was nominated by the Nominating Committee on March 23, 2023.

The Bylaws of Big Horn

Rural Electric Company provide for the election of directors by members using mailed ballots. You will receive your ballot and Annual Report in the mail in a specially marked envelope. No member may submit more than one ballot. Please indicate your vote by placing an (X) or by filling in the square next to the candidate and sign your name where indicated.

**Please be sure to use the envelope that was included with your ballot to return it.** This envelope ensures your ballot will be mailed to an independent auditor for the vote tally. Any ballots returned directly to Big Horn REA **WILL NOT** be counted. Ballots must be received no later than Thursday June 15th, 2023,



in order to be counted and to receive a \$25.00 credit on your next electric bill. The \$25.00 credit is one per membership – not one on each electric account you have with Big Horn REA.

Thank you for your participation in the election of directors for YOUR cooperative – we need your vote!

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## DID YOU KNOW

**May is National Electrical Safety Month.**  
see page 3

## CLOSED

**Big Horn REA offices will be closed May 29, 2023 in honor of Memorial Day.**



## Include electrical safety in your spring cleaning and summer projects!

May is Electrical Safety Month, and the lessons you take away from it can keep you safe all year. There are things you can do today to make sure you're keeping your family, your home, and yourself safe. Taking a few extra moments to focus on electrical safety can prevent work delays, or even save the life of someone you love.

### The next time you go to charge your phone or other devices, make sure you're reducing electrical hazards.

- Don't charge items unattended.
- Keep your charging phone on the nightstand, or away from flammable objects like bedding. Any device that's charging on a surface where heat can get trapped can become a fire hazard.
- Only use charging components that are certified or made by your product. This ensures they've been tested by a third-party laboratory and won't cause damage to your device.
- Remember that water and electricity never mix, don't touch charging devices with wet hands or while standing in water.

### While remodeling, maintaining, gardening, or playing outdoors, evaluate your electrical safety surroundings.

- Look around your home for electrical lines and be sure to keep all, metal tools away from them.
  - Notice if any trees have branches approaching or growing along electrical

lines. Do not attempt to trim branches near power lines yourself.

- Make sure kids know to not climb trees that are near electrical lines. Accidental contact with a powerline while in a tree can be fatal.
- Consider the mature height of trees when planting near wires. Trees with a full growth height of 25 feet or taller shouldn't be planted near power lines.
- Before you do any digging, call your electric provider, or dial 8-1-1, the national call-before-you-dig number, to mark any underground utilities. Be conscious of planting near these lines, as tree roots or other root systems can damage underground pipes, cables, and wires.
- Ensure your outdoor outlets are ground fault circuit interrupters to maintain a regular, normal electrical current in all weather conditions. But have a qualified electrician install them.
- Check the condition of your power tools and cords before using them. Replace any worn or frayed components.

### Keep an eye out! With electricity, small fixes can offer big protection.

- Make sure all electrical outlets are snug, with no loose-fitting plugs that could become a fire hazard.
- Any loose or broken wall plates should be replaced or secured. This will keep

any wiring components from becoming loose or coming into contact with objects or people.

- Ensure all power cords are in good shape, not nailed or stapled to any walls, not under rugs or carpet, and out of the way of high-traffic areas.
- Extension cords are not a permanent wiring solution and should only be used on a temporary basis.
- Inspect any extension cords as well as the cords to power tools before use. If there are any cuts or nicks in the cord, the item should not be used.
- Only use outdoor-rated extension cords for outdoor use. Indoor cords are not made to withstand water and weather, making them hazardous outside.

This isn't an exhaustive list of ways to manage the electrical safety of your home, but as you get started with spring and summer projects, we hope you take a little extra time to follow these tips or ask for help from an electrician.

### Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

The location of your thermostat can impact your HVAC system's ability to maintain an ideal indoor temperature. For maximum accuracy, thermostats should be placed in the center of the home, away from air vents, plumbing pipes and exterior doors. Avoid placing items like lamps and televisions near your thermostat, which can cause the HVAC to run longer than necessary. Avoid installing thermostats in rooms that tend to feel warmer or colder than the rest of the home. Do not place furniture in front of the thermostat, which can block air flow and result in inaccurate readings.



**By now you have received your Horse Power charge for irrigation. If you have changed your Horse Power or you think it is wrong, please contact us at the office at 307-568-2419**

## DON'T FORGET



There are rebates available for electric yard and electric equipment! Qualifying products include:

- 25% of cost up to \$1,000 for riding mowers.
- 25% of cost up to \$250 for 2-stage snow blowers
- 25% of cost up to \$150 for snow blowers, walk-behind mowers, and e-bikes.
- 25% of cost up to \$100 for chainsaws.
- 25% of cost up to \$50 for trimmers, leaf blowers, and power washers.
- 50% of cost up to \$25 for additional batteries with original purchase.

## The benefits of electric garden tools!

1. They are low maintenance. With electric models, you don't need to store gasoline, perform oil changes, treat fuel, change spark plugs, or change filters.

2. You don't need to purchase gas, which with these prices is a good thing, and it'll save you a little money.

3. They store easily and start-up easily in the spring and whenever you need them. The prep work at the start of the season is taken away with electric models.

4. Electric models are lightweight and easier to handle for all your lawn and garden needs.

5. You are reducing your carbon footprint when you use rechargeable electric-powered tools. Electric gardening tools reduce emissions and energy consumption without sacrificing power or efficiency.



HAPPY

# Mother's Day

May 14



## Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) Calculator

The below calculator shows the different efficiencies in home heating.  
If you are installing a heat pump please contact us about a rebate!

Cost Calculations									
Required HVAC Capacity (tons)	Name of Equipment	Details of Equipment	Upfront Cost Equipment & Installation	Annual Energy Consumption			Lifetime Fuel Costs (NPV)		Lifecycle Cost Total (NPV)
				Cooling Electricity (kWh)	Heating Electricity (kWh)	Propane Usage (gallons)	Electricity	Propane	
4	Air-Source Heat Pump (14 SEER, 8.2 HSPF)	Resistance Backup	\$5,450	260	9340	0	\$13,900	\$0	\$19,350
5	Cold Climate Heat Pump (20.5 SEER, 13 HSPF)	No Backup	\$12,100	190	7060	0	\$10,500	\$0	\$22,600
5	Multi-Split Heat Pump (20 SEER, 11 HSPF)	Ductless	\$10,400	170	7020	0	\$10,400	\$0	\$20,800
3.5 4	Central AC (14 SEER) Furnace (80% efficiency)	Propane Furnace	\$5,150	230	410	920	\$900	\$31,100	\$37,150

	User Input	
State	WY	
Home Size	1500	sq.ft
Source of Equipment Costs	Built-in model	
Electricity	0.09677	\$ per kWh
Propane	2.25	\$ per gallon
Fixed Monthly Cost (Electric)	\$0	
Fixed Monthly Cost (Propane)	\$0	
Natural Gas	\$1.28	\$ per CCF or Therm

	Total kWh Heat Cost	Gas Cost	Total
Propane 80% AFUE	\$39.68	\$2,070.00	\$2,109.68
ccASHP - no back up (13 HSPF)	\$683.20		\$683.20
ASHP - resistance back up at 35F ( 8.2 HSPF)	\$903.83		\$903.83
MiniSplit (11 HSPF)	\$679.33		\$679.33
Natural Gas 80% AFUE	\$39.68	\$1,079.24	\$1,118.91
Natural Gas 95% AFUE	\$39.68	\$876.88	\$916.55

Source of costs :

1. Big Horn SGS Rate
2. Wyoming Natural Gas Published Rate of \$1.28 per CCF
3. \$2.25 per gallon of propane rate assumed based on market reports

### HIGHLIGHTS

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Make sure to check out our QR Code to reach our website quicker, and make sure to follow us on Facebook for any outage updates!

[www.facebook.com/BigHornRuralElectric](http://www.facebook.com/BigHornRuralElectric)



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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 professional answering service, who will contact the appropriate person(s).



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