



Big Horn Rural Electric Company

HIGHLIGHTS

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CONSOLIDATION UPDATE >>>



¿TIENES PREGUNTAS SOBRE TU FACTURA, PERO SOLO HABLAS ESPAÑOL? LLAMA A LA OFICINA Y PREGUNTA POR JAZMIN.

The Big Horn Rural Electric Cooperative has decided not to pursue consolidation with three other electric cooperatives in Wyoming. Over the past eighteen months BHREC has been participating in an effort to determine what the advantages would be if we became part of a larger consolidated cooperative. As a part of that process the consolidation group hired C. H. Guernsey Consulting to determine what the cost savings would be for BHREC members over a ten-year period. The financial analysis did show that there would be savings over time.

The board and management carefully considered the financial advantages of a consolidation along with other considerations including local control and representation with our power supplier.

The board concluded that the monetary savings did not outweigh other issues and has chosen to withdraw from the consolidation group.

If you would like additional information, please contact myself or the board member representing your district.

John Joyce, Board President

INSIDE

- Consolidation update
- District meetings
- Tree trimming
- Energy tip of the month
- Line items on bill



We will be open on Good Friday, March 29th, 2024!

Mark Your Calendar

District Meetings



**Big Horn Rural
Electric Company**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



One of the benefits of belonging to a cooperative is local access to the Board of Directors that you have elected. Big Horn REA would like to invite you to the next district meeting in your area.

Meeting 5:30 pm - 6:00 pm
Dinner served 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

May 14: Meeteetse School Cafeteria catered by Bean Baron BBQ

May 15: Burlington Fire Hall catered by Bean Baron BBQ

May 16: Ten Sleep School Cafeteria catered by Sleepy Coyote

May 21: Shell Community Hall catered by Shell Store

May 22: Deaver Town Hall catered by 310 Restaurant

Board members and prospective candidates for 2024 elections will be in attendance. Everyone will have time to meet with the board members. We encourage you all to take advantage of this opportunity to learn about Big Horn REA!

It's YOUR company!

TREE TRIMMING & LANDSCAPING SAFETY

As spring looms on the horizon, we at Big Horn REA want to emphasize safety when it comes to trees and powerlines. Tree limbs growing into lines may create a fire hazard and create an outage.

We discourage members from doing their own trimming under the power lines. Trees or tree limbs can fall in the wrong direction or fall into the lines and damage power infrastructure or injure anyone on the ground.

Maybe your trees near the power lines do not look quite as bad as the photos, but if they are in or near the power line they may create a hazard. Please give us a call and we will arrange to meet with you to analyze and discuss the best course of action.

Our crews patrol our service area and track areas that need attention. If you notice that tree branches are interfering with the power lines on your property, we encourage you to call us!

Big Horn has contracted with a tree removal company to clear right of ways and problem trees. The costs to remove the tree will generally be a part of our operating costs, whereas later-on the homeowner may be required to pay for the costs associated for damage to lines from trees and for tree removal.

Here are three ways to help limit tree trimming:

- Plant trees in the right place. Trees that will be less than 40 ft. should be planted at least 25 ft. away from power lines (greater than 40 ft. should be planted at least 50 ft. away).
- Don't block pad-mounted transformers. Plant shrubs at least 10 ft. away from transformer doors and 4 ft. from transformer sides.
- Report dangerous branches. If you spot a tree or branch that is dangerously close to power lines, please let us know.



»»» ENERGY EFFICIENCY: TIP OF THE MONTH

Lengthen the life of your clothes dryer with regular cleaning. Clean the lint filter after every load, which improves air circulation and safety. Check the lint trap opening and use a vacuum to remove any lint that's fallen inside the opening.

If you use dryer sheets, check the lint filter for residue buildup. Remove any residue with hot water and a nylon brush or toothbrush. Over time, dryer sheets can leave a film on the filter, which can affect the performance of the motor.



8 HOME ENERGY EFFICIENT TIPS FOR SPRING

Do you want to make your home more energy-efficient, but don't know where to start? Spring is the perfect time to buckle down on home improvement projects before the summer heatwaves begin. Here are some simple, affordable home improvements to tackle this spring to help you cool off and save energy.

Treescape Your Home

The winter and summer temperatures of your home can be improved by planting trees and shrubs surrounding your property. Start by planting shrubs closer together, generally to the north and northwest of your house, as this will help block winter winds that force your heating system to run longer. Just like your home can get cold from the wind, it can also get too hot from the sun. A six-degree drop in temperature is possible under the protection of a canopy of shade trees. You don't need to plant a lot of trees to achieve this goal, but you should be strategic about where you place them in relation to your home and the direction of the summer sun.

Install Energy-Efficient Windows

A great advantage of energy-efficient, double-pane windows is that they have lower U-factors than other windows. The U-factor is the transfer rate of heat gain or loss through a material, such as glass. The lower the U-factor, the better insulation value and higher airflow resistance a material has. According to Energy Star, a standard double-pane window allows approximately 75% of the sun's heat into a home. During hotter weather, Energy Star qualified windows admit less heat inside the house.

Change Air Filters

One of the quickest and easiest ways to improve your home's energy efficiency is to change the air filters on your furnace. This will help your heating and cooling system run more efficiently.

Install a Programmable Thermostat

You can adjust the times you turn on the heating or air conditioning with a pre-set schedule with a programmable thermostat. By simply adjusting your thermostat when you are asleep or away from home, you can save money on your heating and cooling bills. Installing an automatic setback or programmable thermostat can do this for you while keeping your home comfortable.

Seal Gaps or Cracks

Look for any gaps or cracks in the doors and windows of your home. These can be a big contributor to heat loss in the winter and cool air loss in the summer. Sealing them with caulk or weather-stripping can make a big difference in your home's energy efficiency.

Open the Windows

Spring is the perfect time of year to open the windows! Circulating a cross-breeze with open windows and ceiling fans is a great way to cool your home.

Use Ceiling Fans

On days when you can't open windows, ceiling fans can help keep you cool when you are in a room. When you use a ceiling fan, you can typically dial your thermostat back by four degrees and still feel just as cool and comfortable.

Install a Heat Pump

Heat pumps have the power to cool your home in the summer and heat it in the winter. A heat pump is considered one of the most energy-efficient methods for heating and cooling a home, especially compared to homes heated with baseboard electric heat or propane. With the improvements in technology over the last five years, heat pumps can save money compared to homes heated with propane or natural gas. Heat pumps are known for their ability to remove excess humidity from the air, which means they can be more efficient than air conditioners during the summer. Learn more about heat pumps here.

If you are looking for ways to make your home more energy-efficient, there are a number of projects you can undertake. We've highlighted some of the most popular options in this blog post, but there are many others that may work well for your specific situation or season. Be sure to consult with a professional before starting any project to ensure safety and proper installation.

Source: Tri-State Generation and Transmission, our power supplier.

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Call the office number: ANYTIME
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After 5 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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