



Big Horn Rural  
Electric Company

# HIGHLIGHTS

LOOK FOR US ONLINE AT [WWW.BIGHORNREA.COM](http://WWW.BIGHORNREA.COM)



Photo by Jazmin Jara

## HOW IS YOUR CO-OP DIFFERENT?



As part of our responsibility as a co-op, Big Horn Rural Electric would like to educate and inform you, our member-owners. One item we would like to educate you on is the difference between a cooperative and an independently owned utility (IOU). The following seven principles describe why you should be proud to say you're a member of Big Horn REA.

### One: Voluntary & Open Membership

Cooperatives, like Big Horn Rural Electric Co., are voluntary organizations, open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities or membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.

### Two: Democratic Member Control

Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting their policies and making decisions. Big Horn's board of directors is comprised of its members and is elected by the membership. Members have equal voting rights – one member, one vote.



## INSIDE

- How is your co-op different?
- Energy tip
- Hunting safely around power poles
- Tired of multiple pages of bills?

**If you have a photo that you would like to submit for the newsletter, please email it to us at [jazmin@bighornrea.com](mailto:jazmin@bighornrea.com)**

## HOW IS YOUR CO-OP DIFFERENT?

### Three: Members' Economic Participation

Members contribute equally to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. Big Horn was established to provide at-cost electric service. Our net margins above expenses and reserves belong to the members and are called capital credits. These capital credits are reinvested in poles, wire and other elements of our system for a period of time before they are refunded to the members.

### Four: Autonomy and Independence

Cooperatives are self-governing organizations controlled by their members. If Big Horn enters into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, we do so on terms that ensure democratic control by our members and maintain our cooperative autonomy.

### Five: Education, Training and Information

Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, board members, managers and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperatives. They inform the general public – particularly young people and opinion leaders – about the nature and benefits of cooperatives. Big Horn educates its members through the use of the monthly "Highlights" newsletter and Facebook page.

### Six: Cooperation Among Cooperatives

Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures. Big Horn is a member of the Wyoming Rural Electric Association and National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

### Seven: Concern for Community

While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development for their communities through policies accepted by their members. Big Horn invests in our communities through Youth Leadership Camp, scholarships, economic development and safety demonstrations.



Big Horn Rural Electric Company is a member of Touchstone Energy®, a national alliance of local, member-owned electric cooperatives providing a high standard of service to customers large and small.

In order to qualify as a Touchstone Energy® cooperative, electric cooperatives must be active members of their community and be dedicated to serving all customers with integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to their community.



## »»» ENERGY EFFICIENCY: TIP OF THE MONTH

If you recently made or plan to make energy efficiency upgrades to your home, you may be eligible for federal tax credits. The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) of 2022 empowers homeowners to save up to \$3,000 annually to lower the cost of efficiency upgrades by up to 30%. A few upgrades covered through the IRA include new exterior doors, windows, insulation, heating/cooling equipment and other major appliances. If you have completed or are considering an efficiency upgrade, visit [www.energystar.gov/federal-tax-credits](http://www.energystar.gov/federal-tax-credits) to learn if you qualify for tax credits.

Source: [energystar.gov](http://energystar.gov)



# HUNTING SAFELY AROUND POWER LINES

It's October, and in Wyoming that means hunting season! Big Horn REA would like to take this opportunity to remind you of some important safety tips as you head out to look for that trophy.

**The main safety points to remember are:**

- Shooting near overhead power lines or insulators can result in severe injury or death.
- Do not shoot at or near power lines or insulators.
- Familiarize yourself with the location of power lines and equipment on land where you shoot.
- Damage to the conductor can happen, possibly dropping a phase on the ground. If it's dry and the electricity goes to ground, there is the possibility of electrocution and wildfire.
- Be especially careful in wooded areas where power lines may not be as visible.
- Do not use power line wood poles or towers to support equipment used in your shooting activity.
- Take notice of warning signs and keep clear of electrical equipment.
- Do not place deer stands on utility poles or climb poles. Energized lines and equipment on the poles can conduct electricity to anyone who comes in contact with them, causing shock or electrocution.
- Do not shoot at, or near, birds perching on utility lines. That goes for any firearm, including pistols, rifles or shotguns.
- Do not place decoys on power lines or other utility equipment. Anything attached to a pole besides utility equipment can pose an obstruction—and a serious hazard—to electric cooperative employees as they perform utility operations.
- Never shoot near or toward power lines, power poles, transformers or substations. A stray bullet could not only damage equipment, potentially interrupting electric service, but could be deadly to the shooter. Damage to the conductor could drop the line to the ground, causing a possibility of electrocution to those nearby.
- Don't make line workers hunt for problems caused in a hunting area; if you cause or simply notice a problem with lines, poles or equipment, let the co-op know. Sometimes damage isn't noticed for several weeks or months, or unless an outage occurs. Keep yourself and your linemen safe this hunting season.



Are you considering adding a pivot or increasing your load? Big Horn will be working on the 2025 budget and wants to make sure we hear from you. Please contact Clint Getzfreid at 307-568-2419 by December 1, 2024 to discuss your project.


# TIRED OF MULTIPLE PAGES OF BILLS?

Many members of Big Horn REA have several accounts. This means, each month, you receive several pages worth of billing statements. We understand this can be frustrating at bill-paying time. We want to make you aware that we offer Invoice Billing.

Invoice Billing is a convenience we offer to you, our members. Instead of multiple pages each month, you will receive one sheet listing each of your accounts and their bill amount. On the bottom stub you will see one total – all of the individual accounts added together!

We encourage you to take advantage of this program if you are a multi-account member. Call our office at 1-800-564-2419 and let us know you are interested and we will get it set up for you!

656



**BIG HORN RURAL  
ELECTRIC COMPANY**  
 Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

415 South Street  
 PO Box 270 Basin, WY 82410  
 Office Hours 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday  
 Phone 307-568-2419 1-800-564-2419  
 www.bighornrea.com  
 Like us on Facebook: BigHornRuralElectric

Account #	Meter #	Rate	Type of Bill	Previous Reading	Present Reading	NBR of Days	M U L T	KWH Used	Basic Charge	Energy Charge	Other Amount	Security Lighting	Unpaid Balance	TOTAL				
Service Address				From	To			Demand Used	Demand Charge	Misc. Charges	Billed Penalty	State Tax	Round-Up					
1000000001	123456789	7	0	66421	67103	31	1	682	\$44.00	\$75.85	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00					
GREYBULL SUB				08/31/24	09/30/24			5.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5.99	\$0.16	\$126.00				
1000000002	234567890	7	0	6202	6291	31	1	89	\$44.00	\$9.90	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00					
EMBLEM SUB				08/31/24	09/30/24			1.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2.70	\$0.40	\$57.00				
1000000003	345678901	7	0	70682	71495	31	1	813	\$44.00	\$90.41	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00					
TENSLEEP SUB				08/31/24	09/30/24			7.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6.72	\$0.87	\$142.00				
TOTAL NOW DUE DOES NOT INCLUDE CREDIT AMOUNTS																		
<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 30%;"> <b>TYPE OF BILL</b>            0 Regular Bill            1 Estimated            2 Minimum            3 Estimated            4 Minimum            5 Final Bill            6 Budget Bill            M Meter Change         </td> <td style="width: 30%;"> <b>RATE CODES</b>            1 - Security Light            7 - Small General Single Phase            13 - Commercial &amp; Industrial            15 - Irrigation            16 - Seasonal         </td> <td style="width: 30%;">           18 - Hwy Lighting            41 - Time of Use            71 - Medium General            72 - Large General            73 - Small General Three Phase         </td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;"> <b>TOTAL NOW DUE</b>            PAST DUE AFTER 10/25/24         </td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">           \$ 325.00  <b>BILL IS DUE WHEN RENDERED</b> </td> </tr> </table>														<b>TYPE OF BILL</b> 0 Regular Bill 1 Estimated 2 Minimum 3 Estimated 4 Minimum 5 Final Bill 6 Budget Bill M Meter Change	<b>RATE CODES</b> 1 - Security Light 7 - Small General Single Phase 13 - Commercial & Industrial 15 - Irrigation 16 - Seasonal	18 - Hwy Lighting 41 - Time of Use 71 - Medium General 72 - Large General 73 - Small General Three Phase	<b>TOTAL NOW DUE</b> PAST DUE AFTER 10/25/24	\$ 325.00 <b>BILL IS DUE WHEN RENDERED</b>
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PLEASE BE MINDFUL DURING HARVEST OF EQUIPMENT ON THE ROADS & POWERLINES ABOVE YOU. LOOK UP & LIVE!																		
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## >>> BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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 Manderson: 568-2514  
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 Meeteetse: 272-1553  
[john.fernandez8614@gmail.com](mailto:john.fernandez8614@gmail.com)

## FOR OUTAGE OR TROUBLE

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

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



PO Box 270, Basin, WY 82410  
 (307) 568-2419  
 FAX (307) 568-2402  
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bhrec@bighornrea.com  
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### Staff and Crew

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

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