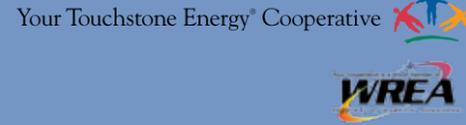


District Meetings



HIGHLIGHTS

VOL. 36, ISSUE 8

Look for us online @ www.bighornrea.com



September 2015

Allocation Notices

It's that time of year again....Big Horn REA has sent out Capital Credit Allocation notices to each member. This is a statement of how much was allocated to your Capital Credit account for the year 2014. This is for informational purposes only. *It is not a bill.* It is not saying you will be receiving this amount of money now. This amount *will not* be credited to your electric bill.

Your capital credits remain on the books in your name and member number until they are retired. Because payments are made approximately 25 years after credits are earned, you should ensure that Big Horn REA always has your current mailing address.



Because Big Horn REA is a non-profit cooperative, all revenues we receive that are in excess of all expenses, are allocated back to our members based on the amount of power they consumed. These funds are retained by the cooperative and used to build and maintain the electric system. The amount and timing of capital credit distribution is determined by the Board in the exercise of its discretion.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Looking for an easy efficiency upgrade? Additional insulation can make a difference! The Department of Energy estimates you can reduce heating and cooling needs up to 30 percent by properly insulating and weatherizing your home.

Source: energy.gov

Look up for hazards during harvest



After working in a field on a neighbor's farm, Jim Flach parked his equipment and stepped out of the vehicle. Sadly, Jim did not realize his equipment was touching an overhead power line, and he became a path for the electrical current as he placed his foot onto the ground. Jim received a severe electric shock that ultimately resulted in his death a few months later. Safe Electricity urges farmers to take the proper precautions when working around power lines.

Kruse, communications director of the Energy Education Council and its Safe Electricity program. "It is important to take time for safety. Before starting work, make sure to note the location of overhead power lines."

To stay safe around overhead power lines, Safe Electricity urges farm operators and workers to:

- Use a spotter when operating large machinery near power lines.
- Use care when raising augers or the bed of grain trucks around

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DID YOU KNOW

Did you know you can reduce heating and cooling needs up to 30 percent by properly insulating and weatherizing your home?

CLOSED



Big Horn REA will be closed Monday, September 7, 2015, in observance of Labor Day.

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

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

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Shield your home from energy loss with adequate insulation

Walls. Floors. Ceilings. Attic. These are some of the prime areas of a home that need insulation in order for you to maximize energy efficiency. According to the Department of Energy (DOE), adding insulation to your home is a sound investment that is likely to quickly pay for itself in reduced utility bills. In fact, DOE estimates that you can reduce your heating and cooling needs up to 30 percent by properly insulating and weatherizing your home.

If your home is more than 20 years old and was not specifically constructed for energy efficiency, additional insulation can likely reduce your energy bills and increase the comfort level of your home. The actual amount of savings for each home depends upon several factors—the current level of insulation, your climate, efficiency of your heating/cooling system and your utility rates. On average, older homes have less insulation than homes built today, but even adding insulation to a newer home can pay for itself within a few years.

So, where do you start?

You first need to determine how much insulation you already have in your home and where it is located. Here is what you will should be looking for:

- Where your home is, isn't, and/or should be insulated
- The type of insulation in your home

- The R-value and the thickness or depth (inches) of the insulation.

A prime area that is chronically under-insulated is the attic. Whether you live in a cool or warm climate, attic insulation is essential to help keep warm air inside in the winter and prevent hot attic air from heating your living spaces in the summer. If you have R-19 or less insulation in your attic, consider bringing it up to R-38 in moderate climates and R-49 in cold climates. For flooring in cold climates, if you have R-11 or less insulation, consider bringing it up to R-25.

How does insulation work?

Heat flows naturally from a warmer space to a cooler space. During winter months, this means heat moves directly from heated living spaces to adjacent unheated attics, garages, basements and even outdoors. It can also travel indirectly through interior ceilings, walls and floors—wherever there is a difference in temperature. During summer months, the opposite happens—heat flows from the exterior to the interior of a home. Proper installation of insulation creates resistance to heat flow. Heat flow resistance is measured or rated in terms of its R-value—the higher the R-value, the greater the insulation's effectiveness. The more heat flow resistance your insulation provides, the lower your heating



and cooling costs will be.

Save green by going green

Today, you have choices when it comes to selecting insulation for the home, including an environmentally-friendly option made of recycled materials, such as scrap blue jeans. It looks similar to chopped up blue jeans and is treated for fire safety. With an insulating R-value similar to fiberglass insulation, this blue-jean insulation is a great option.

Get started and get saving

While an older home will never be as efficient as a new home, an insulation upgrade will make a noticeable difference in your energy use and wallet. A well-insulated home is one of the most cost-effective means of saving energy and decreasing heating and cooling bills.

A well-insulated home is one of the most cost-effective means of saving energy and decreasing heating and cooling bills.

Look up for hazards during harvest

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power lines.

- Keep equipment at least 10 feet from power lines — at all times, in all directions.
 - Inspect the height of farm equipment to determine clearance.
 - Always remember to lower extensions when moving loads.
 - Never attempt to move a power line out of the way or raise it for clearance.
 - If a power line is sagging or low, call Big Horn REA.
- If contact is made with a power line, stay on the equipment. Make sure to warn others to stay away, and call 911. Do not leave until the utility crew

says it is safe to do so. The only reason to exit is if the equipment is on fire. If this is the case, jump off the equipment with your feet together, without touching the ground and vehicle at the same time. Then, still keeping your feet together, hop to safety as you leave the area.

Some additional safety tips from Safe Electricity include:

- Do not use metal poles when breaking up bridged grain inside and around grain bins.
- Always hire qualified electricians for any electrical issues.

- Do not use equipment with frayed cables.
- “You need to double check, even triple check, to see what is above you,” says Marilyn Flach, Jim’s widow. His son Brett adds, “Be conscious of your surroundings. You need to keep your eyes open and beware of overhead lines.”

For more electrical safety information, visit SafeElectricity.org.

Safe Electricity is the safety outreach program of the Energy Education Council, a non-profit organization with more than 400 electric cooperative members and many others who share the mission of educating the public about electrical safety and energy efficiency.



Each year, people are killed or injured when their equipment contacts overhead power lines. Make sure to stay 10 feet away from lines - above, below and to the side. Use a spotter who has a broader view when necessary.

Equally important, know what to do if your equipment makes contact with a power line. Unless there's a fire, stay in the cab and alert others to stay far away. Call for help and stay put until utility crews arrive and make sure the lines are de-energized.

Learn more about staying safe around power lines at:



Failure to notice overhead power lines could be a deadly oversight.