

November 2010

# HIGHLIGHTS

From Big Horn Rural Electric Company

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Your cooperative is a proud member of  
**WREA**  
Wyoming Rural Electric Association



## From the Manager's Desk

**W**e want to thank everyone who took time from their schedules to attend the district member meetings. As a cooperative, you have ownership in Big Horn REA and your input was appreciated at the meetings held this summer in Meeteetse, Ten Sleep, Deaver and Burlington.

President Delaney noted that Big Horn is proud to be your local electric energy supplier. He further stated that Big Horn is committed to providing reliable and safe electricity with quality customer service.

Some of the notable items presented to those attending the meetings were:

- Big Horn is continually seeing more government laws/regulations dictating how we do business. We are now required to build new lines to bird protection standards and some lines are being required to be retrofitted to conform to protection guidelines. There are more OSHA safety rules and regulations that must be adhered to and Big Horn can not perform work past the electric meter.
- Big Horn's kilowatt hour sales are nearly the same as last year and in

these economic times that is important. Everyone's service with Big Horn REA is appreciated.

- Big Horn is looking to build a line to a commercial load that is 1,000kW - that is equivalent to over 50 homes.
- Big Horn will be matching Tri-State Generation & Transmission's (our power supplier) rebate program for energy efficient appliances the next several months.
- Big Horn has donated to school programs, given nearly \$10,000 in youth scholarships, and donated to other worthy community projects all from unclaimed capital credits.
- Big Horn's employees have worked over 5 years without a lost time accident.
- Big Horn's is a financially sound and community minded company.

Probably the best announcement was that neither our power supplier or Big Horn REA is



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planning on a rate increase for 2011! Big Horn will continue to operate as efficiently and effectively as possible for our members.

Thanks for being a member of Big Horn REA and Be Safe.

# Trees and Power Lines

**B**ig Horn REA would like to thank our members who have allowed us to cut trees that have grown into our lines. Big Horn is committed to providing safe and reliable power. By cutting the trees we are able to remove such hazards as a tree falling into a line creating a fire and a child climbing a tree near an energized line. Further, trees in the lines create outages and voltage problems.



Big Horn wants to remind our members that planting of trees under or near overhead lines should not be done. Big Horn must maintain proper line clearance distance between our lines and trees. The costs associated with tree removal or trimming could be charged to the property owner.



Just as important, trees planted near underground lines could also create hazards. Before you plant, make sure

that you are aware of the location of the underground utilities. To be certain that you do not dig into any lines and risk serious injury or costly service interruption, call for a line locate at 1-800-849-2476.



with you and have the potential hazard removed before it becomes costly to you as a homeowner.

Big Horn has contracted with a tree removal company to clear right of ways and problem trees for the next two months. 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.

Big Horn REA wants to remind everyone proper selection and placement of trees away from either overhead or underground power lines can eliminate potential public safety hazards, reduce expenses related to tree removal and provide more reliable power.

Maybe your trees near the power lines do not look quite as bad as shown in the photos, but

if they are in or near the power line they will create a hazard. Please give us a call and we will arrange to meet

## Members Needed to Serve on Committees

**A**s a cooperative, Big Horn Rural Electric, values the input and participation of its members. Your board of directors is preparing to appoint the following annual meeting committees:

- ✓ Advisory Committee - meets 2-3 times prior to the annual meeting to plan the meal, entertainment, decorations, etc. This committee also helps hand out gifts and prizes at the meeting.
- ✓ Nominating Committee - meets 1-2

times prior to the annual meeting to nominate candidates for election to the board of directors.

- ✓ Credentials and Elections Committee - meets with the General Manager and Attorney the morning of the annual meeting, collects and counts the ballots.

If you would be interested in serving on any of these committees, please call the Basin office at 568-2419 or 800-564-2419 or the Board member in your District no later than November 20, 2010.

### **2010 Upcoming Events:**

- November 13**  
Hobby Days - Washakie County Fairgrounds
- November 13**  
Yellowstone Harmony Chorus Annual Show - Cody
- November 20**  
Main Street Mingle - Lovell
- November 20**  
Riders in the Sky in Concert - Cody
- November TBA**  
Christmas Parade - Ten Sleep
- November 26**  
Christmas Opening & Parade of Lights - Worland
- December 3-4**  
25th Annual Festival of Trees - Worland
- December 3-4**  
Greybull Holidazzle & Christmas Craft Bazaar, Rec Hall
- December 4**  
Powell Country Christmas

# Together We Save *Even More*

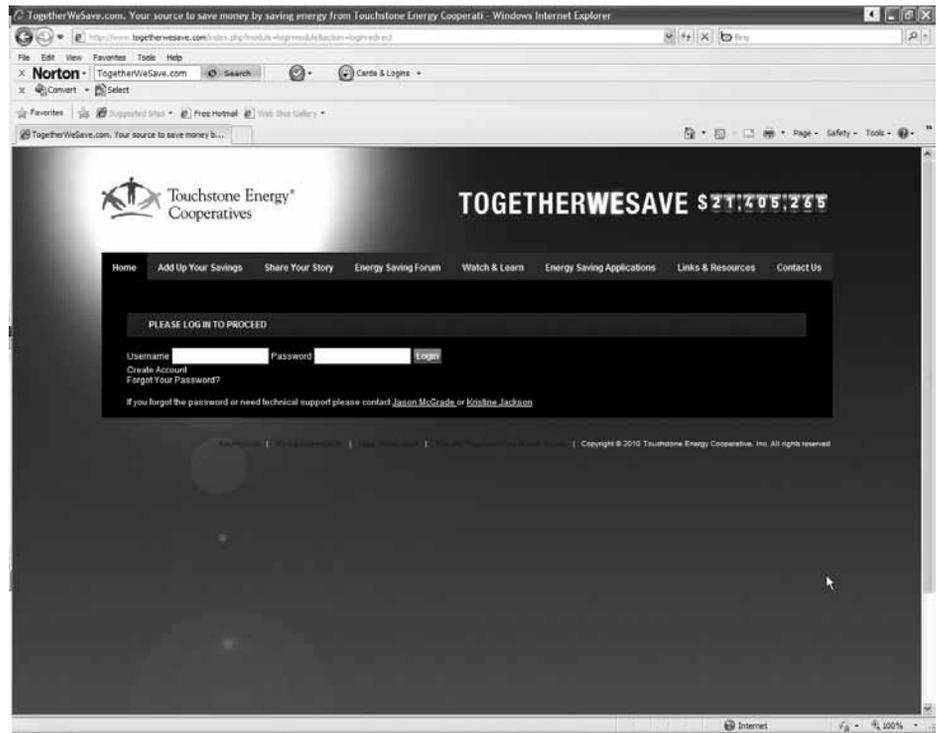
Looking for information on how to lower your energy bills this winter? Big Horn REA has you covered.

Big Horn REA is part of a nationwide energy efficiency campaign known as Together We Save. The campaign's mission is to motivate co-op members like you to make small changes in behavior that add up to big savings. And at Big Horn, we're always looking for ways to bring value to our members. Together We Save offers an unprecedented collection of resources and advice on simple energy efficiency steps you can take in your home.

We've recently recharged the Together We Save campaign with even more tips and ideas to help you save on your energy bills. Where can you go to access this money-saving information? Log on to TogetherWeSave.com, the online epicenter of the campaign. Once you arrive, enter your ZIP code to be redirected to Big Horn's customized site, personalized to reflect our rates and region. Now you're ready to start saving!

TogetherWeSave.com offers everything from videos and interactive applications to an energy savings forum. Use the navigation bar across the top of the landing page to explore the site.

Touchstone Energy® Web TV



(found under the "Watch and Learn" tab) is a compilation of more than 50 short how-to videos on topics such as lighting, heating/cooling, insulation, and many other energy efficiency topics. The library recently added dozens of new videos.

Got an old refrigerator in your basement or garage? It's probably costing you more than you think. Click on the "Energy Savings Applications" tab and scroll down to find out how much you could save by saying goodbye to that old refrigerator. Another new application demonstrates how to save even more with ENERGY STAR® qualified appliances.

Take the Energy Savings Home Tour ("Add Up Your Savings" tab) and discover how all of these small changes

add up in a big way. The Home Tour guides you through each room in a typical home and recommends several energy savings tips in each room. Areas highlighted in yellow prompt you to take various interactive energy saving steps, demonstrating how these changes can translate to real savings on your utility bill.

Live in a manufactured home? A new feature points out more than a dozen ways you can cut energy costs throughout your home.

Helping our members save money during tough times is important to us. It's just one more way Big Horn REA is looking out for you.

If you're interested in more information on how to make your home more energy efficient, let us know.

## ***Upcoming Events Continued:***

**December 4**

**Holiday Open House,  
Buffalo Bill Historical  
Center - Cody**

**December 5**

**Powell Valley Tour of  
Homes - Powell**

**December 11**

**Christmas in Meeteetse**

**December 11**

**Basin Chamber's Little  
Shoppers and Santa's  
Bazaar**

**Veteran's Day is Nov  
11.**

**THANK YOU!**

**In observance our  
office will be closed.**

**HAPPY THANKSGIVING**

**Our office will be closed**

**November 25-26**

**Have a safe and Happy  
Thanksgiving.**

## Quality Member Service Update

# COMING SOON...

Big Horn Rural Electric Company is in the process of upgrading our billing system, which will enable us to take payments via credit card or debit card.

This service should be up and running within the next month!



Also, be sure to look for your Co-op Connections card which will be included in the bill you receive in December!



We're always looking for ways to improve for our members . . . just a couple ways we can make things easier for you!

Look for us on the web at [www.bighornrea.com](http://www.bighornrea.com)



## Energy Efficiency

### *Tip of the Month*

When decorating, remember that outdoor "icicle" lights use more energy because they have more bulbs per linear foot than regular light strands. Consider using regular strands of energy-saving LED (Light Emitting Diode) lights. They use less electricity and last up to 100,000 hours.

Source: Alliance to Save Energy

# HIGHLIGHTS

is an official publication of  
BIG HORN RURAL  
ELECTRIC COMPANY



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#### Staff and Crew

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Sheila Kampbell	Kendal Wambeke
Floyd Mitchell	

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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).