

September 2012

# HIGHLIGHTS

From Big Horn Rural Electric Company

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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



## Manager's Message

Every month your board of directors review reports, financial data, and other pertinent information to make decisions that will affect your cooperative. Whether the issues are relative to work projects, budgets, or loans, your board of directors prepare to make the most informed and business smart decisions.

Big Horn's greatest expense each month is our power bill from our power supplier Tri-State Generation and Transmission. The power bill accounts for over 70% of all operating costs and expenses for Big Horn. Meaning, for every dollar of revenue Big Horn collects from our members, 70 cents is used to pay our power costs.

Tri-State is changing their rate structure on how they bill their 44 member systems. The current rate is comprised of a demand charge and an energy charge. The demand portion is based upon our member peak period for the month. The en-



Lowell Stave, Senior Vice President, Member Relations at Tri-State Generation and Transmission, discusses the new rate structure with the Big Horn REA board.

ergy portion is based upon the total energy or kWhs consumed for the month. Under their proposed rate structure to be effective January 1, 2013, there will be a different rate for on peak and off peak energy (kWh). The on peak hours are from 7:00am to 11:00pm and the off peak hours will be from 11:00pm to 7:00am. Energy usage on Sundays

and holidays will also be considered as off peak. The demand portion of our power bill will be based upon an average demand (total kWhs purchased divided by number of

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**Big Horn REA will be closed Monday, September 3, 2012, in observance of Labor Day.**

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hours in the month). There will also be four seasons with different billing rates and those are Winter (December, January, February), Spring (March, April, May), Summer (June, July and August) and Fall (September, October, November).

Big Horn's board of directors recently met with a representative of Tri-State to review the proposed rate and its overall impact to our members. Big Horn will also be

working with our rate consultant to determine the effect of the rate structure change to our individual rate classes. Tri-State will be approving their budget in September 2012 which will set their wholesale power rate starting January 1, 2013.

It is never a pleasant task to evaluate and consider a rate change to our members. Your board members will continue to be informed of rate issues and work diligently to keep

costs down. Please remember that Big Horn operates to provide reliable electric energy with quality service and at the lowest possible cost. Continue to read your newsletter as we will keep you informed of any proposed rate change.

If you have any questions, please give me a call.

Remember - plan your work and fun to include being safe.

# Allocation Notices

It's that time of year again....Big Horn REA will be sending 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 2011. 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.

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.

Your capital credits remain on the books in your name and member number until they are retired. Because payments are made approximately 30 years after credits are earned, you should ensure that Big Horn REA always has your current mailing address.

# Read Your Meter


Here's the scenario...there was a problem found with a meter. The meter itself was working correctly, but the "Turtle" - the automatic meter reading system - inside the meter was only reading part of the time. Therefore, at billing time, the office downloaded a reading which showed usage, but not the correct usage. When the problem was caught, several months had gone by and the kWhs actually used

were greater than the billed amount. Thus, an adjustment to the bill for the proper usage is made resulting in a higher than normal bill.

To protect yourself, we encourage you to periodically read your meter on the first of the month and compare the reading to that on your bill. It will be slightly different, as we download as close to the first of the month as possible, but it doesn't always fall on the first. The reading should be close

to what shows on your bill. In this way you can prevent an unexpected high usage bill. To read your meter, record the five numbers that you see in the face of the meter.

If you find a large difference in the meter reading and what is on your bill please call the office. We thank you for your help in this matter. By working together, we can eliminate these types of unpleasant surprises.



**BIG HORN RURAL ELECTRIC COMPANY**  
208 South Fifth Street PO Box 270  
Basin, WY 82410

060411

Dear Member:

This is a statement of the patronage capital that you have furnished your electric cooperative for the year and reflect the current un-retired balance. However, capital credits have no cash value outside and cannot be applied to your electric bill.

Patronage Capital represent the cooperative's margins each year - the difference between its income and expenses - allocated to members in proportion to the amount of electricity each member has purchased for the cooperative.

Capital credits are held by the cooperative and the money they represent is used as working capital and equity. Capital credits may be paid back or "retired" to the membership in the form of checks when the financial condition of the cooperative permits, to be decided by your local board of directors. Thank you for your support of Big Horn Rural Electric Company!


Please make sure to notify us if your address changes and you no longer purchase energy from Big Horn REA so we will be able to forward payments when capital credits are refunded for the year or years of your membership with us. Capital credit payments or retirements that remain unclaimed for two years from the date of issue will be considered as donated capital and will be used for member-based programs, such as scholarships, youth loans, and any other purpose that will benefit the cooperative's general membership.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at 1-800-564-2418.

Member Number	Current Allocation	Grand Total	Year
1987	\$80.84	\$158.63	2010

**PLEASE REMEMBER:**

- THIS IS NOT A BILL. YOU DO NOT OWE THIS AMOUNT.
- THESE AMOUNTS ARE NOT NOW PAYABLE AND DO NOT REPRESENT CASH, BUT RATHER YOUR OWN EQUITY IN YOUR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE.
- YOU CANNOT APPLY THESE AMOUNTS TO YOUR ELECTRIC BILL.



Big Horn REA  
PO Box 270 Basin, WY 82410  
TEMP-SERVICE RETURN REQUESTED

The Business Smart Paper logo

060411  
123 RD 4  
ANYTOWN, US 82415



# Energy Efficiency Credit Rebates

*We would love to give you some money!*

**For More Information  
Please Call or Email**

**Sheila Kampbell,  
Member Services  
800-564-2419  
568-2419  
Sheila@bighornrea.com**

As part of our commitment to our members, Big Horn Rural Electric along with our power supplier, Tri-State Generation & Transmission, is proud to offer Energy Efficiency Credits! Essentially, Energy Efficiency Credits are a rebate for purchasing an Energy Star appliance. The Energy Efficiency Credits (EEC) program has been in place since 1985 as a means to encourage and reward energy-efficient purchases and practices. The program provides consumers cash rebates when they install more efficient lighting, heating and cooling systems, and high-efficiency motors in irrigation, commercial and industrial applications.

Rebates are available on heat pumps, electric water heaters, Energy Star refrigerators and freezers, clothes washers, dishwashers, and air conditioners. In order to qualify, you must be a member of Big Horn Rural Electric, you must let us know of your purchase within 180 days, the appliance must be installed in a location served by Big Horn Rural Electric, the appliance must be Energy Star or qualifying model and we will need a copy of the receipt. You may find Energy Star qualified appliances at [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov).

Once you have made your purchase, give us a call! It's just that simple. We will gather some basic information, have you mail us a copy of your receipt and we will submit the rebate form to Tri-State. Tri-State will process the request and send Big Horn Rural Electric a check. Big Horn will then match Tri-State's amount and in turn, send you, the member, a check.



**BIG HORN RURAL  
ELECTRIC  
COMPANY**



### TRI-STATE REBATE AMOUNTS

- Heat pumps** - \$85 - \$150 per ton; \$150 additional per Energy Star unit
- Water heaters** - \$50 per unit; \$25 per unit additional for lifetime tank warranty; \$25 per unit additional for low wattage elements. Super Efficient Unit – (primary heating by direct exchange ground source or air-source heat pump) - \$100 per unit; \$25 per unit additional for life time tank warranty
- Air Conditioners** - \$150 per unit Energy Star rated air-conditioners 3 tons and over
- Refrigerators** - \$40 per unit for full size Energy Star rated refrigerators
- Freezers** - \$40 per unit for full size Energy Star rated freezers
- Clothes Washers** - \$40 per unit for Energy Star rated clothes washers
- Dishwashers** - \$30 per unit for Energy Star dishwashers
- Electric Motors** - \$10 - \$14 per horsepower for premium efficiency motors; minimum 10 horsepower

### CO-OP Connectic Local Discoun



Big Horn REA is pleased to announce that we have secured another local discount for those members using their Co-op Connections cards.

A great big thank you to :



**BASIN AUTO CARE, INC**  
607 S 4TH ST  
BASIN, WYOMING

Present your Co-op Connections card at time of services to receive a

**FREE TIRE ROTATION WITH EVERY OIL CHANGE**

If you own a business and would like to join the Co-op Connections program as a local vendor, please contact Sheila at Big Horn REA, 307-568-2419. Please encourage those businesses you use the most to join our program!



## Energy Efficiency

### *Tip of the Month*

Using compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) in outdoor lights can save money and energy because these lights stay on the longest. ENERGY STAR-qualified CFLs use 75 percent less energy than traditional incandescent bulbs. To save even more, look for fixtures designed for outdoor use that have automatic daylight shutoff and motion sensors. Learn more at [www.energysavers.gov](http://www.energysavers.gov).

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

# HIGHLIGHTS

is an official publication of  
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ELECTRIC COMPANY



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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).