

April 2014

HIGHLIGHTS

From Big Horn Rural Electric Company

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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



Balance Your Budget and Your Time

Big Horn Rural Electric realizes how busy life can get for our members. We would like to remind you of the convenient billing and payment option we have available that may help you balance your budget and your time.

Budget Billing - Pay the same amount every month. During the

months of April, May and June you can sign up to take part in our budget billing program. The idea behind budget billing is to average your high usage bills with low usage bills. Big Horn will need at least twelve months of usage history before enrolling a member in this program.

THANK YOU

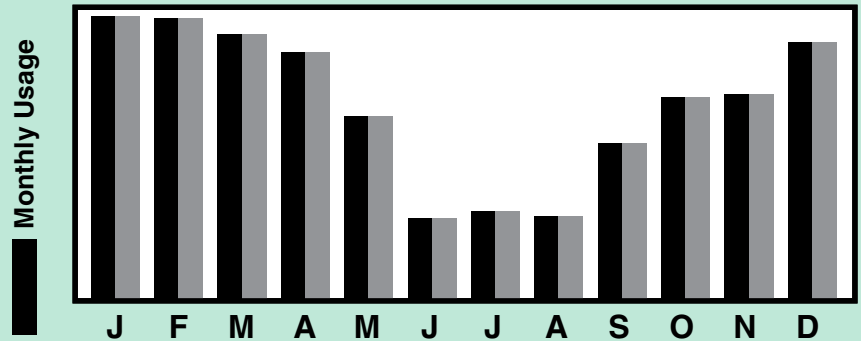
A big thank you to those members who attended our Annual Meeting! As our newsletter deadline was before the Annual Meeting, you will find meeting news and photos in next months Highlights!

Inside...

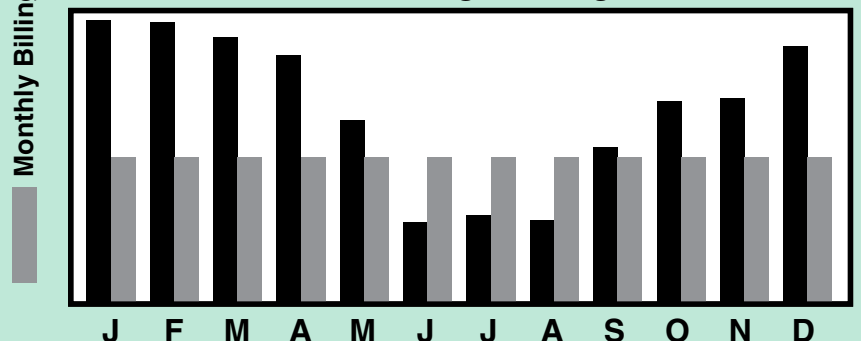
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SAMPLE BUDGET BILLING

Before Budget Billing



After Budget Billing



Use Caution When Burning



that prevents moisture from entering the core of the pole and causing deterioration. If a pole is scorched or blackened, the protective coating is damaged. What might appear as just a slight burn or discoloration to the pole is, in fact, generally damage to the pole. This significantly shortens the life of a power pole and can lead to the pole becoming unstable and creating a hazard and/or an outage.

Fire damage to poles can be very expensive for Big Horn and its members.

help avoid costly repairs:

⚡ Follow all rules established by the fire districts in which you reside.

⚡ Plan your burning before you begin. If there are power poles in the area to be burned, clean the weeds and debris from around them before you start to burn.

⚡ If the fire does get away from you and a pole becomes engulfed in flame, immediately call the fire department and Big Horn Rural Electric.

⚡ Caution - water and electricity do not mix. When putting out a burning pole, you should not spray water close to the conductors as it may cause a short

It's that time of year again when all across Big Horn's service territory, members are preparing for spring planting. Burning fields and ditches is a common method used by many of our members to clear off the debris and weeds.

Big Horn would like to remind you to please use caution when burning around poles. Power poles are treated with a protective coating

Depending upon the type of pole and the hardware that it carries, several thousand dollars can be involved in replacing even one pole. In order to



recover these expenses, Big Horn Rural Electric will bill and require the party responsible to pay the costs for replacing the pole and the related charges.

It is much cheaper to prevent a pole from catching fire than to pay for a new one. Here are some suggested precautions to

recover these expenses, Big Horn Rural Electric will bill and require the party responsible to pay the costs for replacing the pole and the related charges.

⚡ Report any fire-damaged pole to Big Horn Rural Electric immediately. Remember, not reporting a fire-damaged pole may cause a serious accident to happen later.

FOR SALE BY SEALED BID

Big Horn Rural Electric Company is accepting bids on the following items. These items may be inspected at Big Horn REA's Basin office, 208 South Fifth Street, from 9:00am to 4:00pm Monday through Friday **BY APPOINTMENT**. Items to be sold are As Is/Where Is.

All bids are subject to the terms and conditions of the Sale of Surplus Equipment. Bids must be received in the Basin office, PO Box 270, Basin, WY 82410, in a sealed envelope clearly marked "SURPLUS EQUIPMENT SEALED BID". Bids must be received no later than 3:00pm on May 15, 2014. Big Horn REA reserves the right to accept or reject any bid.



1. 2001 Vermeer V3550 trencher, 54" 6-way backfill blade, 38" broom with 15" idler and shark chain, 310 hours



2. 1999 Kawasaki Prairie 400 Auto 4x4 wheeler, good rubber, new front clip and rack, 1981 miles



3. 1990 Artic Cat snowmobile/4-wheeler trailer and spare tire



4. 2007 Yamaha Rhino 660 4x4 with Warn winch, 1504 miles



5. Toro Power Max 1028 LXE snow blower, like new



6. 2005 Ford F550 6.0L Diesel 4x4 automatic with Altec TA37M bucket, A brand FX body, 96,000 miles

Important Information for Irrigators

Energy Credits

Big Horn Rural Electric Company would like to inform our members that we give rebates for electric motors that meet the required efficiency standards. You can receive up to \$16 per horsepower for an energy efficient electric motor. If the electric motor is used to replace a fossil-fueled engine or is a new installation, you can receive an additional \$1.50 per horsepower for wiring assistance. An energy credit application must be completed and an invoice or bill of sale is required. The rebate must be applied for within 180 days of installation. For more information, contact the Basin office at 568-2419 or 800-564-2419.

2014 Irrigation Instruction Form

If you have not mailed in your 2014 Irrigation Instruction Form, Big Horn needs this information as soon as possible. If the form is not returned, we will assume that you do not want the irrigation service energized. A minimum charge will be billed on all irrigation services in place whether they are energized or not. The non-use minimum is the greater of \$19.00 per horsepower or \$200.00 which will be billed in April - you will receive this bill the first part of May. **RE-MINDER** - all irrigation bills are expected to be paid the month you receive the bill. Any delinquent irrigation accounts will be required to pay a deposit in order to keep the electric service.

Five Ways to Spring into Energy Efficiency

Spring marks a perfect time of year to make your home more energy efficient. Here are five quick tips that will save both energy and money:

1. **Seal cracks and gaps around your home.** As you put away your storm windows consider adding weather stripping around leaky doors and caulking around window frames. TogetherWeSave.com, a website sponsored by Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives, the branding program of the nation's not-for-profit, consumer-owned electric co-ops, shows how easy it is to use a caulking gun to seal up leaks around vents, ductwork, and windows. A typical member of Big Horn REA can save more than \$200 annually by taking this simple step.

2. **Change filters regularly.** Change furnace and air conditioner filters monthly. Dirty filters restrict air flow and reduce the overall efficiency of your heating and cooling system by making it work harder on hot summer days.

3. **Clean the refrigerator inside and out.** Now's a good time to not only throw out that leftover fruitcake from the holidays but check the temperature settings on your refrigerator.

You can learn more about ways to lower your monthly energy bill by visiting TogetherWeSave.com.

Ideally, a refrigerator's temperature should be between 37 and 40 degrees for maximum operating efficiency.

When it's time to replace that old refrigerator, be sure to buy one that's ENERGY STAR rated. These energy-efficient appliances can save Big Horn REA members as much as \$100 a year based on calculations from the TogetherWeSave.com.

4. **Think sun block.** TogetherWeSave.com points out that by pulling down the shades on your windows this spring and summer, you could save about \$35 a year. Your local hardware store likely carries lots of inexpensive window coverings. Best of all, by blocking the sun, your house will stay cool and comfortable year-round.

5. **Enjoy spring breezes.** Use a clothesline during warmer months and let sunlight and breezes dry clothes naturally. This will reduce your electric bill by not running a dryer, and add a genuine clean scent to your family's laundry.

HIGHLIGHTS

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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).



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

These days, it may be easier to trim your refrigerator's energy use than it is to trim your waistline. Consider this energy-saving and maintenance regimen to keep your refrigerator in shape. Set the refrigerator temperature above 37 degrees Fahrenheit. Make sure door seals are in place and are snug when closed. And keep outside coils unobstructed and clean; dirty ones could overwork the unit's compressor.

Source: Energy.gov