



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative   
The power of human connections

# RURAL ELECTRIC NEWS

MEMBER NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2021

## Manager's Message

*Hello Everyone,* \_\_\_\_\_ *by Darick Eisenbraun*



### Spring is right around the corner!

It is my hope that everyone is healthy and safe as we begin to emerge from what I hope is our final months of the COVID-19 pandemic. While the United States, and more specifically Wyoming, begins to come out of this pandemic, High Plains Power is still here working hard to uphold our mission statement and provide safe, reliable, and affordable power while following the cooperative principles.

As many of you may have seen on national news outlets or social media, much of the Midwest experienced record cold temperatures this past month. This created an unprecedented strain on the electrical grid causing rolling brownouts across many states. While much of this has been attributed to a 100-year event, it brings me to question, are we relinquishing safety and reliability to accomplish our nationally legislated carbon reduction goals? As a local distribution cooperative, we have an obligation to maintain our system so that it can withstand extreme conditions so we can provide the electric service that our member-owners deserve and expect. With the local and national political pressures mounting for our G&T cooperative, Tri-State, High Plains

Power could face future reliability issues with our power supply. As we continue to retire thermal base generation (coal plants) and replace that production with less-reliable, carbon friendly power options (solar and wind) we begin to lose control of the ability to ramp up and throttle back supply to meet the ever-changing needs of our members. Diversification is an important characteristic to remember; we must remain diversified in our power supply as to avoid situations like the ones experienced by much of the Midwest and Texas during the polar vortex. While we work to do all that we can to keep your power cooperative reliable, please consider reaching out to your local and national legislature representatives to let them know that their environmental decisions have cascading impacts here at home.

At High Plains Power we will continue to have the hard conversations with our power supplier and local and national representatives as to ensure that we are able to continue to meet our member's expectations and fulfill our mission of delivering safe, reliable, and affordable electricity while following the cooperative principles.

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March 14th -  
Daylight Saving

March 17th -  
St. Patrick's Day

April 4th -  
Easter



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# Test your Home Energy IQ from the U.S. Dept of Energy

1. What accounts for the most energy use in American homes?



- a. Heating and cooling
- b. Water heating
- c. Electronics and lighting
- d. Appliances

2. How much electricity does a typical home use per month?



- a. about 9,000 kilowatt hours
- b. About 900 kilowatt hours
- c. About 1.21 gigawatt hours
- d. About 90,000 kilowatt hours

3. How much does a typical U.S. family spend on home utility bills per year?

- a. \$1,100
- b. \$5,500
- c. \$2,200
- d. \$3,300

4. How much money can you save by switching to ENERGY STAR appliances, fans and electronics over their lifetime?

- a. \$750
- b. \$575
- c. \$921
- d. \$1,000

5. Using a programmable thermostat to set back your temperature 10° F for 8 hours a day can lower your heating and cooling costs by what percent per year?



- a. 15%
- b. 5%
- c. 8%
- d. 10%

6. Which of these is NOT a way to save energy at home?

- a. Air drying clothes
- b. Turning lights and appliances off when not in the room
- c. Plugging electronics into power strips and turning them off when not in use
- d. Closing HVAC vents in rooms that aren't being used

7. Which type of water heater provides hot water only as it is needed?



- a. Conventional
- b. Heat pump
- c. Solar
- d. Tankless

8. Which of the following is NOT true about LED lighting

- a. LEDs are compound semiconductor devices that produce light when an appropriate electrical current is applied
- b. Because of their long life, durability, and efficiency, LEDs are becoming more common in residential, commercial, and outdoor area lighting applications
- c. LEDs emit light in a specific direction, reducing the need for reflectors and diffusers that can trap light
- d. LED stands for light-energy diode

ANSWERS: 1.a 2.b  
3.c 4.a 5.d  
6.d 7.d 8.d

## Energy Savings Tips From the U.S. Dept of Energy

### WEATHERPROOFING

Caulk and weather strip doors and window. It's easy to do yourself. Caulking and weather stripping materials cost about \$40 for the average house (12 windows, two doors). Savings in annual energy costs could amount to 10% or more.

### SPARE THE FAN

Use kitchen, bath and other ventilating fans sparingly. In just one hour these fans can blow away a houseful of

warmed or cooled air. Turn them off as soon as they have done their job.

### SHUT THE FLUE

Keep your fireplace damper closed unless you have a fire going. An open damper in a 48 inch square fireplace can let up to eight percent of your heat out the chimney.

### TRY A SWEATER

A light, long-sleeved sweater equals almost two degrees in

added warmth; a heavy, long-sleeved sweater adds about 3.7 degrees; and two lightweight sweaters add about five degrees in warmth because the air between them serves as insulation to keep in more body heat.

### CLEAN THE FILTER

Clean or replace the filter in your forced-air heating system each month.

# Keeping the Lights On No Matter What The Weather.

Photo below:  
Devin Bult



( L ) Devin Bult  
( Middle ) Jasper McWilliams  
( R ) Nick Vermeire



Photo above:  
Brian Heiner

## Why is my bill higher during the winter months?

Each winter, when the snow falls and the temperature drops, members wonder why their electric bills are higher. There are a number of reasons why your bill may be higher than you anticipated.

- 1. Holidays (Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Years) require extra cooking and baking.
- 2. Extra holiday ornamental lighting both indoors and outdoors.

- 3. Increased use of lighting because there are less hours of daylight.
- 4. You're probably using your heating system more during the cold winter months. In extreme cold weather it could be running continuously.
- 5. Many people use space heaters in their homes, barns, garages, etc.
- 6. Stock tank heaters.
- 7. Engine heaters

- 8. Electric blankets and heating pads.
- 9. Clothes dryers are used more and dryers in unheated rooms use more energy.

Whatever the reason for the high bills, if you have any questions regarding the bills, please contact Customer Service and they will be more than happy to answer any questions you may have regarding your bill.





# Employee Spotlight



**Josh**  
*Staking Technician*  
*With HPP since 2000*

**FAVORITES**

*Movie:* The Godfather

*Band:* Sidewalk

Prophets

*Vacation Spot:*

Barbados

*TV Show:* The Office

**FINISH THIS SENTENCE**

*Life would be boring without. . .*

A. Music.

*Wouldn't it be cool if I. . .*

A. Could record music in Nashville.

**RANDOM QUESTIONS**

**Q. What is one thing on your bucket list?**

A. Skydiving

**Q. What is your motto?**

A. Faith, Family, Freedom

**Q. If you could have a conversation with anyone who would it be?**

A. God

**Q. If you could go anywhere in the world where would you go?**

A. Scotland

**Reminder:**

Daylight Savings Time begins on **March 14, 2021.** Remember to set your clocks **FORWARD** one hour!



Just a reminder that sign up for Budget Billing is April 1st through June 1st. Applications can be found on our website at HighPlainsPower.org or you can pick one up from our Riverton office. For more information or if you have any questions please call the Riverton office at 307-856-9426 or 1-800-445-0613.

High Plains Power

# NEWS

is an official publication of High Plains Power, Inc., PO Box 713, Riverton, WY 82501.

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**General Manager**  
 Darick Eisenbraun

This is a monthly publication made available by High Plains Power, Inc., with the Wyoming Rural Electric News. Ideas, questions and comments are welcome.

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