



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
The power of human connections

NEWS

MEMBER NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2019

Manager's Message

Dear Members:

by Marlene Morss



October is Cooperative Month

High Plains Power is joining over 900 electric cooperatives in more than 47 states in celebrating Cooperative month. In Wyoming there are 11 electric cooperatives who share the same values and principles - that is cooperatives put people first and are motivated to meet their members' needs.

Remember this about cooperatives:

Cooperatives don't have to answer to outside shareholders; they answer to you the member/owners.

Cooperatives represent democracy in action, with control exercised by a board of directors elected by the member/owners.

Cooperatives generate jobs in their communities, pay local taxes to help support community service.

Members are invited to stop by the Riverton office every Friday in October to enjoy a cookie/donut and a cup of coffee as we celebrate National Co-op Month. The main headquarters of High Plains is located at 1775 E Monroe, Riverton. Happy Co-op Month!

expenses have been under budget. The board of directors and management do everything we can to be good stewards of your cooperative finances.

Federal Rate Regulation for Tri-State

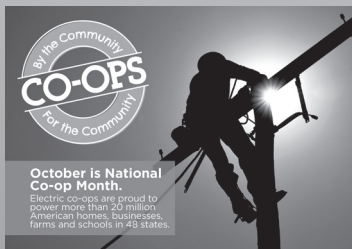
A couple of months ago, I wrote about Tri-State taking action to become rate regulated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) due to the difficulty of applying consistent rates for all four states (Wyoming, Colorado, Nebraska and New Mexico). Recently Colorado and New Mexico have exercised rate jurisdiction over Tri-State which in turns affects Wyoming's rates. We all don't like to be regulated by any agency other than your own board of directors but to make the "playing field" equal we need to have one referee presiding from a neutral point of view. In September, Tri-State announced the addition of a non-utility member, MIECO. The admission of MIECO, Tri-State's first member that is neither a small electric cooperative nor a government entity, results in Tri-State becoming subject to rate regulation by FERC.

The grand finale of summer is upon us as the days grow shorter and cooler. Football, sweaters, beautiful colors of the fall leaves and harvest time also confirms the beginning of autumn. I wish everyone a prosperous and safe harvest. While moving farm equipment, irrigation pipe, remember to LOOK UP! Be aware of overhead powerlines!

"and all at once summer collapses into fall..." Oscar Wilde

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Co-op month has been celebrated annually in October across the US for more than half a century. It is a time for cooperative businesses to reflect on their shared principles and to educate others about the value of belonging to a cooperative. This year's theme is "Co-ops: By the Community, For the Community"

2020 Budget

High Plains Power is working on the 2020 Budget. We have received official word from Tri-State that they will not be increasing their rates for 2020. That is important as I mentioned last month over 85% of our spending goes to Tri-State as they are our power provider. I don't foresee High Plains Power having a rate increase, so we have been able to hold our rates steady for 3 consecutive years. So far in 2019 our operating

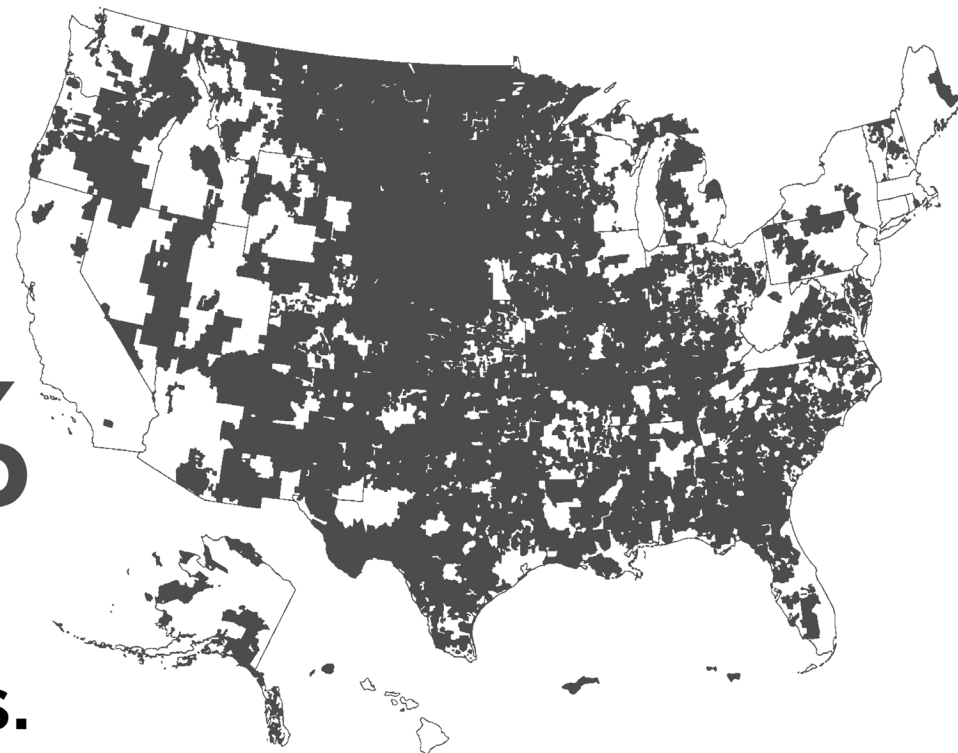


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America's Electric Cooperatives

From booming suburbs to remote rural communities, America's electric cooperatives are energy providers and engines of economic development. Electric cooperatives play a vital role in transforming communities.

Cooperatives Power **56%** of the nation's landmass.



Own and maintain **42%** (2.6 million miles) of U.S. electric distribution lines that serve our communities.

Power over **20 million** businesses, homes, schools and farms in 47 states.

Serve **42 million** people across **88%** of U.S. counties.

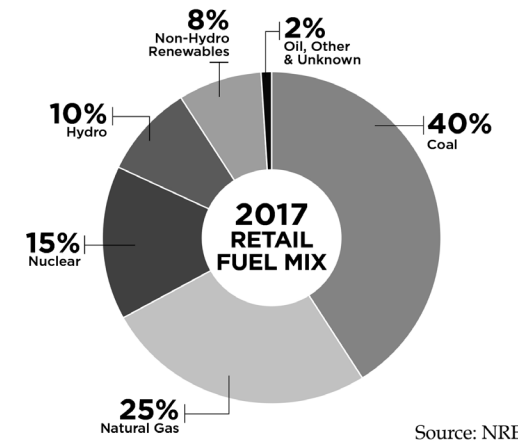
831 distribution cooperatives are the foundation of the electric cooperative network. They were built by and serve co-op members in the community with the delivery of electricity and other services.

62 generation & transmission cooperatives provide wholesale power to distribution co-ops through their own electric generation facilities or by purchasing power on behalf of the distribution members.

Electricity use and energy mix

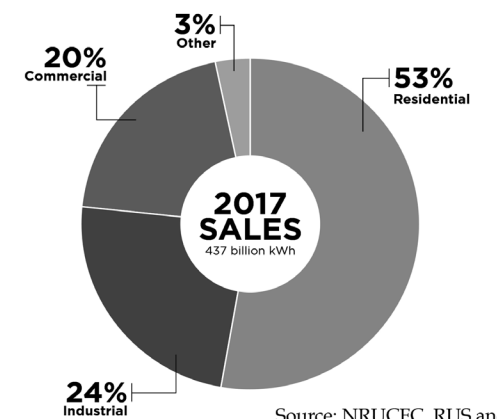
Co-ops use advanced communications and automation technology to improve reliability and efficiency while reducing environmental impacts by growing the use of renewable resources.

Note: Non-hydro renewables includes owned and directly purchased generation, plus generation in the mix from wholesale market purchases and do not reflect renewable credits.



Source: NRECA

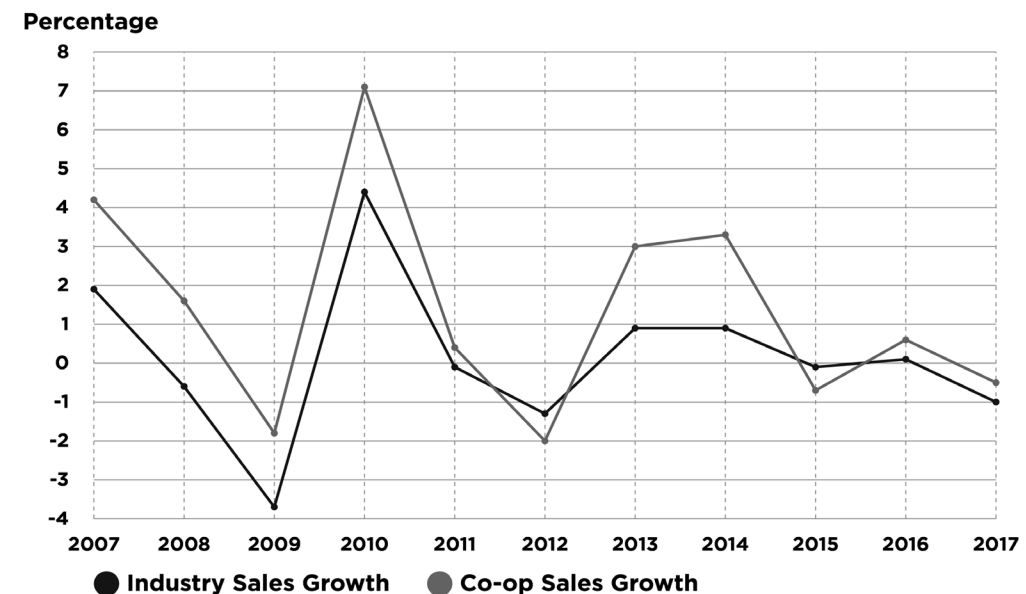
- Co-ops added **333,013 new members** in 2017.
- **83%** of electric co-ops had a net increase in members in 2017.
- Electricity demand at co-ops decreased about one-half of one percent in 2017, with co-op retail sales reaching **437 billion kilowatt-hours**.
- Co-op residential electricity sales decreased **2%**.
- Commercial & industrial sales increased **2.85%**; irrigation sales decreased **6.3%**.



Source: NRUCFC, RUS and EIA

Electricity sales growth

Co-op sales growth rates generally surpass that of the electric utility industry as a whole.



Source: EIA

Co-ops generate **5%** of total U.S. electricity and sell **13%** of all U.S. electricity

Electric cooperatives are economic engines in their communities



In 2017, electric cooperatives supported **611,600 American jobs**

- 68,200 electric co-op jobs
- 97,600 contractor jobs
- 170,900 supplier jobs
- 274,900 consumer spending jobs

contributed **\$88.4 billion** to the U.S. GDP annually

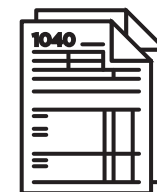


The cooperative difference



Electric co-ops are local energy and technology providers. They are shaped by the specific needs of the communities they serve. This local, member-driven structure is one reason why cooperatives enjoy the highest consumer-satisfaction scores within the electric industry, according to J.D. Power and Associates and the American Consumer Satisfaction Index.

- Electric cooperatives are built by and belong to the communities they serve. They are led by members from the community and are uniquely suited to meet local needs.
- In 2017, America's electric co-ops **returned more than \$1.1 billion** in excess revenue to their consumer-members.
- Co-ops **earned the top spot** in the J.D. Power and Associates 2017 Electric Utility Customer Satisfaction Study.
- Electric cooperatives, on average, **score three points higher** than all other electric companies, according to the 2017 American Consumer Satisfaction Index.



generated more than **\$22 billion** in federal, state and local taxes

invested \$12 billion annually in local economies



Source: The Economic Impact of America's Electric Cooperatives, FTI Consulting, March 2019

Source: NRECA



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High Plains Power

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