




Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
The power of human connections

NEWS

MEMBER NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2019

Manager's Message

Dear Members: _____ *by Marlene Morss*



Installation of New Metering System

The installation of the new Landis & Gyr advanced metering infrastructure is continuing throughout our service area. The Thermopolis, Worland, Riverton, Pavillion, Ft. Washakie, and Ethete areas are almost complete. Recently a comparison was conducted reviewing meter reads. As you recall, last year at this time we had to manual read many of the meters. Below are the comparison numbers from 2018 vs. 2019.

Year	Area	# of Manual Read Meters
2018	Riverton	692
	Thermopolis	314
	Total	1006
2019	Riverton	66
	Thermopolis	49
	Total	115

That is a reduction of 891 meters or an 89% reduction! That amounts to huge savings for your cooperative as there are no truck rolls and labor to read the meters. We also have about a 99% read rate of the meters installed. High Plains is on track for having the infrastructure fully installed in 2020.

2020 Budget

It is hard to believe that it is already that time of year to start preparing the 2020 budget. We will be in the depths of the 2020

budget preparation once we receive the 2020 rate information from Tri-State. The Tri-State Board of Directors should act on the budget at their September board meeting. Since over 85% of our spending goes to Tri-State (our power provider), their rate has a huge impact on our budget process. We will present the High Plains proposed budget to the Board of Directors at the November board meeting for their review and approval.

Strategic Plan

Back in 2017 High Plains Power had a strategic planning session. It is an ongoing process and we take the time to review and update the plan. Out of the strategic plan we formed an employee risk management committee. This committee has been brainstorming on potential risks and ways to mitigate those risks. We want to keep the communication going between the Board and the committee so they will meet with the Board in August.

A communication/commitment to community employee committee was also formed. They too have been meeting and coming up with ways to keep you, the members, informed about High Plains Power and ways that we can better serve our communities.

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**Back to school!
Slow down, watch
for kids, watch for
busses, stop at
crosswalks and be
safe in school zones!**



Tess Hust Attends 2019 Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp



Tess Hust, Dubois High School

Tess Hust was selected to attend the 43rd annual Cooperative Leadership Camp in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, from July 13-18. Joining their peers from across Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma and Wyoming, approximately 86 youth learned about the cooperative principles at the week-long educational retreat.

“High Plains Power is proud to be a participating sponsor of

the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp and send our local youth to develop essential leadership and teamwork skills,” said Marlene Morss. “Through this trip, we hope these local students will learn how electric cooperatives work and how co-ops and their employees support the communities they serve.”

Participating cooperatives throughout Colorado and Wyoming delivered their delegates to the Glen Eden Resort, nestled in the Rocky Mountains, where they were introduced to a bus-load of Kansas and Oklahoma campers. The group immediately began daily membership meetings where a general manager, board of directors and committees were selected to establish the “Camp Cooperative”. The week-long experience also gave participants

an authentic camp feel with a hike to Fish Creek Falls, river rafting, volleyball tournament, swimming, a dance and a talent show.

Several demonstrations and presentations enhanced students’ knowledge on the cooperative model and on operations at their electric cooperative. Campers competed to build a model transmission line out of craft supplies, toured Trapper Mine, Craig Power Plant, watched a high-voltage safety demonstration and learned about the Energy Trails mission to electrify rural towns in Guatemala.

The campers raised \$293.13 to donate to the Energy Trails team when they head to Guatemala in September. The money will be used to purchase water filters,



backpacks and school supplies for students who attend school in Sillab, Guatemala.

When asked, what memory will you always have with you from this trip? Hust said, “At the beginning of camp I was a nervous wreck. It was hard to come out of my shell in fear that I would be judged, however, as the week progressed my attitude changed completely. I felt my true self come out. I could feel like I was being heard without fear of rejection. Just like cooperatives, we all get a voice and we all find ways to give back to those around us. Cooperatives, in my opinion, are how all businesses should work. The more we connect with each other and our community, the more effective and powerful we can be together.”

At the end of the camp, participants elected ambassadors from their group of peers who will return to camp next year as junior counselors. Elected to serve in that capacity are Xavier Galyardt, United Power; Cameron Elgin, Yampa Valley Electric; and Juliet Babyak, Poudre Valley Electric. As ambassadors, the students will facilitate camp leadership activities and serve as role models for the students selected to attend camp next summer.

Overall, the campers said they left CYLC with a new sense of leadership and a basic understanding of how their local electric cooperatives operate and how they contribute to improve the communities they serve.

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Labor Day

You know summer is coming to an end when we celebrate Labor Day. High Plains Power will be closed September 2nd to observe this holiday. I am proud to serve the employees of High Plains Power and thank them for their dedication and hard work. It is through their contribution that they provide strength, prosperity and well-being for your cooperative.

Also, thank you members of High Plains Power for your hard work in all your various occupations. It is your achievements that makes this country so great!



MISSION STATEMENT: *Wyoming Agriculture in the Classroom strives to develop an understanding of Wyoming's vast resources where students become informed citizens, capable of serving as stewards for Wyoming's future.*

Join Wyoming Agriculture in the Classroom for the Barn Burner 5k & Lil' Buckaroo Stick Horse Race on Saturday, September 21st at Hat Six Travel Plaza in Casper, WY. Race day information is available on the Wyoming Agriculture in the Classroom website at <http://wyaitc.org/activities/barn-burner/>. For more information contact Rindy West, Development Director at 307-751-3430 or rwest@wyaitc.org.

Barn Burner Race: To run for awareness about agriculture, minerals & energy, outdoor recreation & tourism education in Wyoming.

Where does your support go?

The Wyoming Stewardship Project addresses critical thinking skills at a young age, through educational curriculum in Agriculture, Minerals & Energy and Outdoor Recreation & Tourism. Grades 2-5 are a pivotal time to introduce these concepts. Not only will our students be able to think for themselves and address challenges, but the lessons are aligned with education standards and address our main Wyoming economic drivers.

What is the Wyoming Stewardship Project?

- 12 units exploring Agriculture, Minerals & Energy, Outdoor Recreation & Tourism
- Fully aligned to Wyoming Content and Performance Standards
- Units align horizontally across grade-level content, and vertically in grades 2-5
- Units can be used independently without loss of integrity
- Units provide cross-curricular lessons, and hands-on activities with content unique to Wyoming
- Thoughtfully written to highlight Higher Order Thinking Skills
- Accessible online: www.wyaitc.org

Units are created in such a way that makes them easy to use, cross-curricular, and comprehensive. They have been developed to align vertically in second through fifth grades, and horizontally across all grade-level standards. The units build on each other throughout the grades, however, they can be used independently without loss of integrity.

The hope for the Wyoming Stewardship Project is to empower students to become tomorrow's critical thinkers and problem solvers.

Cooperative Principle #5 — Education, Training and Information

Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperatives. They inform the general public, particularly young people and opinion leaders, about the nature and benefits of cooperation.

Cooperative Principle #7 — Concern for Community

While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies accepted by their members.

High Plains Power

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