

HIGH PLAINS POWER CURRENT

Your Source for Cooperative News

High Plains Power Announces Rate Changes for 2025

In August 2024, High Plains Power (HPP) received a wholesale rate increase of 6.4%. The wholesale purchase price of power for HPP is between \$0.80 and \$0.85 for every dollar collected in sales. While HPP has not had a rate increase since 2017 pressure on the rate has increased. The HPP board of directors decided not to immediately pass this increase onto the membership but to carefully review the impacts and plan a methodical path forward.

Starting in April 2025, there will be a rate increase for the membership to meet operational requirements. Throughout the budget process, the board has contracted an outside third party to perform a Cost-of-Service

Study to ensure that costs and rates remain equitable. One potential addition being evaluated is adding a demand component to everyone's monthly invoice, which is currently billed at \$0.00 per kW.

During the next couple of board meetings, options and information will be provided to the board, with the goal of publishing new rates by March 1, 2025, and making them effective on April 1, 2025.

Stay tuned for more updates as we continue to work towards a fair and balanced approach to the rate structure. Information will be posted on the website, so members will have access to real time information.

Annual Meeting Scheduled for April 2025

In recent years, High Plains Power has scheduled annual meetings to fall within other community activities in the summer. Due, in part, to changes to the summer schedule, and the work demands of our demographic, HPP is switching its annual meeting back to April, in hopes that it is a more favorable meeting time for farmers and ranchers.

There has been a lot going on in the past year and with energy markets, political change, potential for consolidation of cooperatives, etc., annual meeting will be an opportunity for members to sit down with our staff and board and see

where HPP is going in 2025.

The meeting will take place at the Fremont Center at the Fremont County Fairgrounds. The meeting structure will be similar to last year, people will register leading up to the meeting, and then for the first hour after the doors open on the day of the meeting. There will be breakfast snacks and drinks, the annual raffle

and giveaways. There will also be meal vouchers for those who register for the annual meeting as well as a door credit for attending!

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Winter Maintenance Ongoing

Earlier this year HPP announced the usage of drones to inspect infrastructure and let our membership know about the areas being inspected. Using this new technology allows HPP to inspect greater areas of our infrastructure and prioritize maintenance projects.

Winter is the season for conducting those maintenance projects. The ground is too frozen for underground work, and the analyses from the drone inspections allows crews to prioritize areas that need maintenance. Members have probably seen crew vehicles out working projects over the

last few months. This is a result of the reports that come back after the drones and on-the-ground pole inspectors have completed their inspections.

In response, crews have worked on replacing bushing covers and arrestors, cutouts on transformers, crossarm replacements and pole change outs. There has also been a lot of bird guards added, this work requires lines to be de-energized for 20-30 minutes and crews notify members when this work is being done.

Capital Credits Issued in 2024

In 2024, between High Plains Power and our G&T, Tri-State, \$1.9 million dollars in capital credits were retired back to the members.

As a cooperative, one of the principals we operate on is our member's economic participation in our business model. What this means is that for every year that you are a member, you will receive an allocation letter, based on your electricity consumption. That allocation indicates what your capital credits will be based on when they are retired. Members either received a check in the mail, a credit on their account, or an outstanding balance paid with the capital

credits. If you did not receive a check, look at the back page of your bill that is due in January 2025, if it was credited to your account, it will be noted there.

The capital credits that were retired this year were from 2004 for Tri-State, and 2011-12 for High Plains Power. If you were not a member at that time, you will not receive a check.

If you have other questions please call us at 307-856-9426 or for more information on how capital credits work, go to our website, www.highplainspower.org and scroll down to the capital credits article.

If you are struggling with high bills, please don't wait! Reach out to us now, and we can work with you!

There are assistance programs and we can talk about payment plans and budget billing options for the coming year!



A SEASON REMINDER

Winter is here

LIEAP

Is currently taking applications!

For more information, go to www.lieapwyo.org or call 1(800)246-4221 for more information.



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