



BIG FLAT NEWS



December 2024

www.bigflatelectric.com

Scholarships



A PAIR OF SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE, APPLY SOON

MONTANA Electric Cooperatives' Association (MECA) offers a \$500 scholarship to any college-bound undergraduate student. The applicant's parent or guardian must be receiving electric service from Big Flat Electric Co-op.

The scholarships may be used at a Montana college, university, or any out-of-state institution. Funds for these scholarships come from donations that honor the memories of deceased directors, managers and employees who

have served the electric cooperative. MECA scholarship applications need to be turned in to Big Flat Electric by January 24, 2025.

Basin Electric

Basin Electric Power Cooperative (BEPC) offers a \$1,000 scholarship to students enrolled or planning to enroll in a full-time graduate or undergraduate course of study at an accredited two or four-year college, university or vocational/technical school.

The scholarships are awarded based on academic record, the potential to succeed, leadership and participation in school and community activities, honors, work experience, a statement of education and career goals, and an outside appraisal.

Scholarships are due in the Big Flat office by January 24, 2025.

Applications are available online at bigflatelectric.com, school guidance counselors and at the Big Flat Electric office. Don't miss out!

Attention - Attention - Attention!

Watch for our new website coming at the beginning of the year.

AFTER HOURS : OUTAGE REPORTING: (406) 654-7400

PLANNED POWER OUTAGE: : Power will be interrupted Oct 28, 2024 for approximately 2 hrs

Pay By Phone: 1-844-265-6743

Pay Now

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Big Flat Electric Cooperative

RE M I N D E R A N D E X P L A N A T I O N

Big Flat Electric rate change coming

Demand charge based on your peak use during the month will be implemented on January 1

As Board President Alan Wasson reported at our October 12, 2024 annual meeting, Big Flat Electric recently completed a cost-of-service analysis to review our existing rate structure as compared to our monthly business expenses.

Big Flat Electric has been able to sustain 8 years without a rate increase. However, due to an increase in the cost of power from our power suppliers, coupled with inflationary pressures and increases to materials and equipment, the Board of Directors has deemed a rate increase is necessary.

To begin, starting January 1, 2025, we will be implementing a Demand charge to residential, small commercial, public building and stockwell rate classes. This rate will be \$0.25/Kilowatt (kW). The demand billed is the maximum kW used by the member for any period of 15 consecutive minutes during the month. Our irrigation and large commercial members have been billed a Demand charge for years.

The Board of Directors and staff will continue to evaluate

WHAT IS DEMAND METERING?

For an explanation of how peak demand works and how you can reduce your peak electric load, and thus your bill, see the next page.

the financial forecasts in the coming months to determine when an increase to the energy charge (kWh) and/or base charge is necessary.

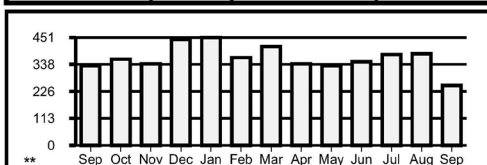
If you have any questions on your demand usage or how this new rate structure will impact your power bill, please contact our office staff during business hours. They'd be happy to review your usage history with you and give you an idea of what the impact will be to your monthly power bill.

RM

Service Desc 217 SCHOOL SECTION RD

Rate Class RESIDENTIAL

Meter	Type	Bill Code	From	To	Days	Prev Read	Pres Read	Mult	Usage
311919811	KWH	REGULAR	Aug 31, 2024	Sep 23, 2024	23	37312	37562	1	250
	KW						6.460	1	6.460



** Month represents when your billing statement was created

This Month Last Year	
KWH Usage 333	Days Served 28

Detail of Charges:

KWH Charges	250 kWh	@ 0.10400	\$26.00
Demand Charge	6.46 kW	@ 0.25000	\$1.62
Base Charge			\$36.00
Current Monthly Charge for this Service			\$63.62

SEE "BILLING SUMMARY" FOR AMOUNT DUE

(This is an example of your bill showing where the demand rate will appear on your bill)

Understanding demand metering

DEMAND (kW) is the highest amount, or peak, of electricity used during a period of time. For BFEC that period of time is 15 consecutive minutes. Members will have a daily peak, generally in the morning or evening, and will be billed on their highest daily peak of the month.

When the majority of members peak during the same time period, it creates a peak on BFEC's electric distribution system. Because electricity must be generated the moment it is needed, serving peaks can require resources that are more expensive since they are

harder to plan for and require larger infrastructure to accommodate them.

A goal of BFEC's is to continue to educate our members on ways to lower your peak load, which in turn will lead to lower demand charges for you and your cooperative.


When you think about ways to reduce demand, remember that some electricity usage is impossible to avoid.

For instance, appliances like refrigerators and freezers typically run, regardless of the time of day.

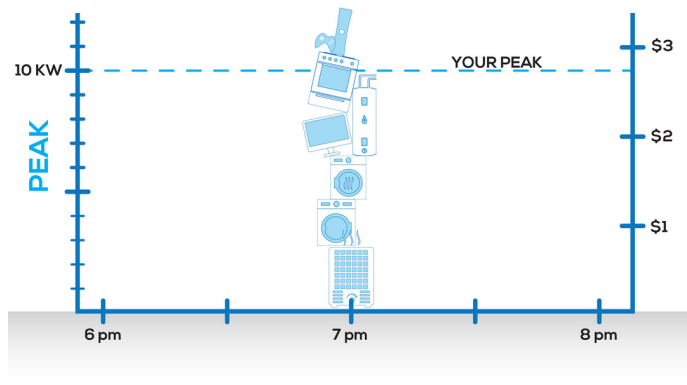
Other loads, especially those that use a large amount of power, may be

able to run at other times. We encourage our members to "level your load" and spread out the use of major appliances rather than running them at the same time.

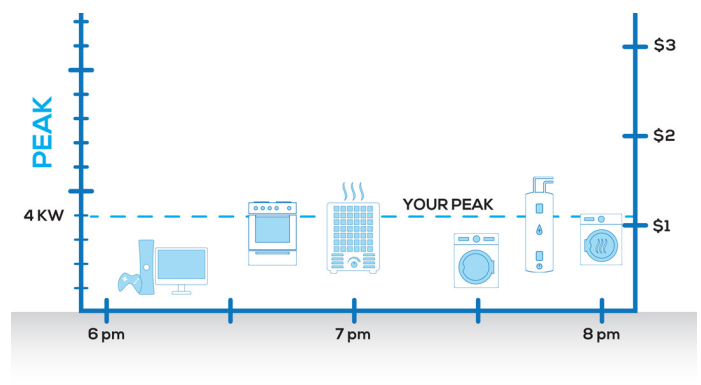
For example, you could do laundry and other chores that require significant amounts of electricity when other appliances aren't running such as mid-day, later in the evening or on weekends.

Another suggestion is to purchase a programmable thermostat to reduce heating and air conditioning use during your peak hours. 

DON'T TOWER YOUR POWER



LEVEL YOUR LOAD



National Co-op Month Trivia winners

Thank you to everyone that helped celebrate National Co-Op month in October by participating in our trivia challenge on Facebook. What makes a Co-Op a Co-Op includes voluntary and open membership, democratic member control, member economic participation, autonomy and independence, education and training, cooperation among cooperatives, and concern for the community.

Our winners of the trivia challenges, each receiving a \$25.00 bill, credit were Petrina Ariwite, Wendy Simanton, Kelly Downing, Ettsy Hawley and Stephanie Tremblay. Congratulations!



FROM DECEMBER 1963: BFEC NEWSLETTER



Your cooperative has put into effect a reduction in rates to better serve your yard lighting needs. Big Flat Electric Cooperative will install, maintain, and provide the electricity for a "Dusk to Dawn" light on your meter or transformer pole for a flat fee of \$3.00 per month.



Your cooperative has such a light available. It is a 175-watt mercury vapor lamp that gives as much light as an ordinary 500-watt incandescent bulb. A photoelectric control operates automatically to turn the light on at dusk and off at dawn.

"Dusk to Dawn" lighting has many advantages other than completely relieving you of yard light problems such as bulb replacement and repairs, as this will be taken care of by the Cooperative. This is equally true for farms, schools and churches, cottages and busi-

nesses, as you are in effect provided with 24-hour lighting whether you are home or away. Vandalism and prowlers are discouraged as the light cannot be turned off by cutting your power, as the light is connected before the meter and service breakers. It will no longer be necessary to go to the house or barn to turn on the light when you are working late and it becomes dusk. Whenever you leave or arrive home, your yard is lighted for you or your guests.

If you are interested in this type of farmyard lighting, contact the Cooperative office for further details as to how this light will best suit your needs.

Along Our Lines

December 1963 – BFEC Newsletter

- Mildred Bauer has rented Gerald Walsh's house in Zortman and plans to move into it for the winter months.
- A short tap has been built to serve the trailer home of MR. and Mrs. Jentoff Olson near Cree Crossing, located north of Saco. They plan to build a home at this site in the near future.
- Among new consumers on our lines are Mr. and Mrs. Dan Shores in the Regina Community and Martin Buckman near Hays.
- Fire destroyed one of the Hogeland teacherages, which was occupied by the Wayne Reynolds family, on November 30. The Reynolds are now living in Fred Weepel's house.
- Mr. and Mrs. Ben Schwarz and family have moved to the Marvin Soennichsen home in Whitewater.
- The Whitewater school district has purchased a new electric range for their lunchroom.

HARD AND EASY WAYS TO DO THE FAMILY WASH

Are you the one who does the family wash? If so, you can keep on doing it the hard way or you can do it the Easy Electric Way. Just flip the switch and Monday becomes Sunday. Your automatic electric washer does the laundry while you catch up on other chores or just relax.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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District 2	Alan Van Voast
District 3	Alan Wasson, President
District 4	Betty Campbell, Sec. /Treas.
District 5	Roger Solberg, Vice President
District 6	Patty Quisno
District 7	Kevin Koss

General Manager: Gretchen Boardman



BIG FLAT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

SERVING BLAINE, PHILLIPS AND VALLEY COUNTIES

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The power of human connections

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(406) 654-7400

PAYMENT OPTIONS:
1-844-968-1965 or
bigflatelectric.com