

# BIG FLAT NEWS



May 2025

[www.bigflatelectric.com](http://www.bigflatelectric.com)

## Rate Schedules Effective May 1, 2025

|   | Previous Rates | New Rates      |
|---|----------------|----------------|
| <b>Single Phase Services - Residential, Farm/Ranch, Small Commerical, Public Buildings</b>                  |                |                |
| Base Charge - Monthly   | \$36.00        | <b>\$38.00</b> |
| Energy (kWh) Rate   | \$0.104        | <b>\$0.109</b> |
| Demand (kW) Rate  | \$0.25         | <b>\$0.25</b>  |
| Storage Heat Energy (kWh) Rate  | \$0.070        | <b>\$0.074</b> |
| <b>Stockwells</b>   |                |                |
| Base Charge - Monthly   | \$26.00        | <b>\$28.00</b> |
| Energy (kWh) Rate   | \$0.104        | <b>\$0.109</b> |
| Demand (kW) Rate  | \$0.25         | <b>\$0.25</b>  |
| <b>Three Phase Services - Farm/Ranch, Large Commercial, Public Buildings and Industrial Under 1,000 KVA</b> |                |                |
| Base Charge - Monthly   | \$58.00        | <b>\$60.00</b> |
| Energy (kWh) Rate   | \$0.106        | <b>\$0.111</b> |
| Demand (kW) Rate-up to 100 kW   | \$11.00        | <b>\$11.00</b> |
| Demand (kW) Rate-over 100 kW  | \$16.00        | <b>\$16.00</b> |
| Storage Heat Energy (kWh) Rate  | \$0.070        | <b>\$0.074</b> |
| <b>Three Phase Services - Industrial Over 1,000 KVA</b>   |                |                |
| Base Charge - Monthly   | \$66.00        | <b>\$68.00</b> |
| Energy (kWh) Rate   | \$0.093        | <b>\$0.098</b> |
| Demand (kW) Rate-up to 100 kW   | \$11.00        | <b>\$11.00</b> |
| Demand (kW) Rate-over 100 kW  | \$16.00        | <b>\$16.00</b> |
| <b>Irrigation</b>   |                |                |
| Base Charge - Monthly   | \$58.00        | <b>\$60.00</b> |
| Energy (kWh) Rate   | \$0.077        | <b>\$0.081</b> |
| Demand (kW) Rate-up to 100 kW   | \$7.00         | <b>\$7.00</b>  |
| Demand (kW) Rate-over 100 kW  | \$14.00        | <b>\$14.00</b> |
| <b>Abandoned/Idle Service</b>   |                |                |
| Base Charge - Monthly   | \$7.00         | <b>\$9.00</b>  |

## Rate increase effective May 1

**A**s Board President Alan Wasson reported at our October 12, 2024, annual meeting, a rate adjustment would be needed in 2025 due to an increase in the cost of power from our power suppliers, coupled with inflationary pressures and increases to materials and equipment. While we strive to minimize the impact on our members, these cost increases can no longer be absorbed with our current rates, which had remained unchanged since January 2017.

The Board of Directors recently approved a 5-percent increase to the energy (kWh) rate, and a \$2 per month increase to the base charge for all rate classes, which will go into effect May 1. The current demand (kW) rates will remain the same.

We understand that any rate change can be a concern, and we remain dedicated to transparency and assisting our members. If you have any questions or would like information on your energy usage or billing history, please contact our office at 406-654-2040 or register your account through the SmartHub link on our website: [www.bigflatelectric.com](http://www.bigflatelectric.com).

Thank you for being a valued member of Big Flat Electric Cooperative. We appreciate your understanding and continued support as we navigate these necessary changes. RM



# Be ready for storm season

Preparedness is the best defense against severe weather

**S**PRING is on our doorstep and, like many of you, I'm looking forward to more opportunities to be outdoors and enjoy warmer weather. Springtime brings many of my favorite activities such as cooking out with family and friends, time spent working in the garden and simply slowing down a bit to enjoy life.

Unfortunately, spring and summer can also create the perfect conditions for severe storms.

Big Flat Electric Cooperative crews are always prepared and standing by to respond should power outages occur in our area. When severe storms cause power disruptions, our line crews take all necessary precautions before they get to work on any downed lines.

We would encourage you to also practice safety and preparedness to protect your family during storms and outages.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recommends the items below as a starting point for storm and disaster preparedness. Visit [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) for additional resources:

- Stock your pantry with a three-day supply of non-perishable food, includ-

ing canned goods, energy bars, peanut butter, powdered milk, instant coffee, water and other essentials (i.e., diapers and toiletries).

- Confirm that you have adequate sanitation and hygiene supplies, including towelettes, soap and hand sanitizer.

- Ensure your First Aid kit is stocked with pain relievers, bandages and other medical essentials, and make sure your prescriptions are current.

- Set aside basic household items you will need, including flashlights, batteries, a manual can opener and portable, battery-powered radio or TV.

- Organize emergency supplies so they are easily accessible in one location.

- In the event of a prolonged power outage, turn off major appliances, TVs, computers and other sensitive electronics. This will help avert damage from potential power surges, and will also help prevent overloading circuits during power restoration. That said, do leave one light on so you will know when power is restored.

- If you plan to use a portable generator, make sure it's rated to handle the amount of power you will need,

and always review the manufacturer's instructions to operate it safely.


- Listen to local news or a NOAA Weather Radio for storm and emergency information, and check with Big Flat Electric for restoration updates.

- Severe storms can occasionally bring down powerlines. If you see a downed line, always assume it's energized and never approach it. If flooding occurs, never walk through areas where powerlines could be submerged.

Advance planning for severe storms or other emergencies can reduce stress and anxiety caused by the weather event, and lessen the impact of the storm's effects.

If you experience an outage, please report it by calling our office at (406) 654-2040 or our afterhours number (406) 654-7400 — these are the fastest way to let us know if your power is out.

We hope we don't experience severe storms over the spring and summer months, but we can never predict Mother Nature's plans.

At Big Flat Electric, we recommend that you make a plan today — because storm preparedness is always our best defense. 

# AG DAY IN MALTA

**B**ig Flat Electric Co-op participated in Malta's annual Ag Day on March 21 and are a proud supporter of agriculture in our community.



**ABOVE:** Debbie Kindle, member services, manned the Big Flat Electric Cooperative booth during Malta's annual Ag Day. **LEFT:** Ron Hansen was the winner of Big Flat Electric's door prize during Ag Day.

## THINGS TO REMEMBER:

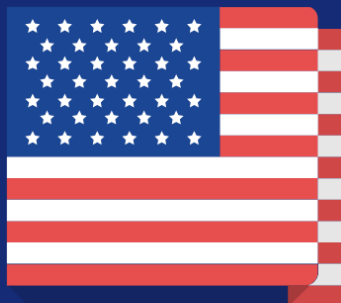
- **Find us on Facebook** under Big Flat Electric Cooperative, Inc.
- **Visit our website** at [www.bigflatelectric.com](http://www.bigflatelectric.com).
- **Sign up for budget billing** and/or ACH (auto payments) by calling our office.
- **Bills** are generated on the 1st working day of each month, and are due on the 20th of each month.
- **Bills that are 60 days in arrears are subject to disconnect.** Once disconnected, a reconnect fee will be charged. The bill will then have to be paid in full to be reconnected.
- **We have a secure, automated toll-free phone number** for members making payments by credit card and/or bank account: 1-844-968-1965. You will need to have your account number and/or phone number that is on file with our office to access the automated system.
- **Take control of your electric account with SmartHub.** You can pay your bills; set up and cancel reoccurring payments; set up notifications; obtain duplicates of your bills; and view your monthly and yearly usage, all at your fingertips. Visit our website: [www.bigflatelectric.com](http://www.bigflatelectric.com) or download the SmartHub app from your Play Store on Android or the App Store on Apple devices.
- New service and service change quotes are only **valid for 30 days**.

WE REMEMBER ON  
MEMORIAL DAY

"LAND OF  
THE FREE  
BECAUSE OF  
THE BRAVE"

HONOR THE COURAGE OUR  
FALLEN BROTHERS AND SISTERS  
SHOWED OUR COUNTRY

BIG FLAT ELECTRIC WILL BE CLOSED  
MAY 26, 2025



## QUOTE OF THE MONTH

Happiness is not  
something you  
postpone for the future;  
it is something you  
design for the present.

Jim Rohn



## FROM MAY 1963: BFEC NEWSLETTER

May, 1963

### What is a Member?

"A member is the most important person ever in this cooperative—in person or by mail.

"A member is not dependent on us — we are dependent on him.

"A member is not an interruption of our work — he is the purpose of it. We are not doing him a favor by serving him — he is doing us a favor by giving us the opportunity to do so.

"A member is not a cold outsider to our business — he is part of it.

"A member is not a cold statistic — he is a flesh and blood human being with feelings and emotions like yourself with biases and prejudices.

"A member is not someone to argue wits with. Nobody ever won an argument with a member.

"A member is a person who brings us his wants. It is our job to handle them profitably to him and to ourselves."

### PICK 'EM UP AND LAY 'EM DOWN

The National Shoe Institute estimates that an average housewife walks 7½ miles a day; a stenographer, 6 miles; a salesgirl, 8 miles; and a waitress, 12½ miles.

An average letter carrier walks 22 miles a day, and the average policeman's feet carry him 14 miles a day.

### Along Our Lines

MAY 1963 – BFEC Newsletter


- Mr. and Mrs. Robert F McAuley have moved their trailer house to the B.H. Clausen place south of Malta where Mr. McAuley is employed.
- Mr. and Mrs. Harry Wiley are now residing in the Clifford Hutton house in Hogeland. Mr. Wiley is employed as a mechanic at the Hutton garage.
- The Big Flat crew is re-routing the line serving the Hogeland airport to provide better clearance of the landing field.
- Mr. and Mrs. Gus Moccasin are new consumers on our lines, having moved to the George Bell house in Lodgepole. The John Allen family, which formerly occupied this residence, have moved to the Ray Helgeson place.
- The Lutheran church in Hogeland is in the process of installing new lighting in the church basement.

The average Irishman eats 45 pounds of butter annually — Our per capita use is down to 7.4 pounds. A recent Harvard University study of Irishmen indicated they weigh less, had one-half as many cases of high blood pressure, and lower cholesterol counts than blood brothers in Boston.

U. S. diet averages 20 per cent above the recommended calorie level — Japan 1 per cent above — India 11 per cent below. In India three-fifth of total income goes for food — in Japan, two-fifths; and in U. S., one-fifth.

Social Security taxes go up to 7¼ per cent January 1 — for total annual take of \$2 billion.

Missouri Farmers Association Insurance Company is now offering coverage for accidental death benefits if the insured was wearing a seat belt.



**HOTPOINT ROOM AIR CONDITIONERS**

8,100 BTU/Hour Rating  
115 Volt  
12 Ampere N E M A Certified  
1,290 Watts  
Washable Foam Filter  
Two Fan Speeds  
Ventilation Control  
26" wide, 16½" deep, 15½" high  
Quick Mount Model with expandable side louvers for Quick Window Installation. . . . .

Special Price to  
Big Flat Consumers

**ONLY 189<sup>00</sup>**

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

|            |                               |
|------------|-------------------------------|
| District 1 | Duane Klindworth              |
| 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

P.O. BOX 229 • MALTA, MT 59538 • WWW.BIGFLATELECTRIC.COM

A Touchstone Energy™ Partner  
The power of human connections

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1-844-968-1965 or  
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