



HILL COUNTY ELECTRIC NEWS & VIEWS

September 2022



1.877.394.7804  
hillcountyelectric.coop

September CEO Message



Craig Gates
General Manager/CEO

This month's note is going to be a little different for me. What a crazy weather year! It seems that we started in a drought, moved to some wet weather, but not enough to take us out of the drought and now we are back to grasshopper weather; hot and covered in grasshoppers. This is the second year in a row where the grasshoppers outnumber everything else. I hope that you all are staying cool in your homes and are winning the battle against the grasshoppers. I am staying cool in the house, but losing the battle against the grasshoppers.

To stay cool in our homes, that takes what we call a base load. A base load is there to provide power and energy. Power is electricity needed to run an appliance at any given time or kilowatts (kW). Energy is the amount of power needed to run that appliance over a period of time or kilowatt hours (kWh). In today's world, to have a base load Hill County receives its power and energy from two places. The first, and by far most of our power, is delivered via hydro power or a dam. The second is from a mixture of coal, wind, solar, and natural gas.

To be called a base load the power and energy must be available at all times. As long as there is water going through the dam and we have coal and natural gas available, we have a solid base load. You might ask, "why I did not include wind and solar in the base load equation?" While it is true that wind and solar can augment a base load, they are not reliable enough to be called on at any time to be considered as a replacement for hydro, coal, and natural gas.

In fact, when you think of solar, you must have access to the sun. In the summer, that is usually not too much of an issue, but solar does not work well when there are clouds. Given the geographic location on the planet in which we all live, it really does not work well in the winter — and I would be remiss if I didn't mention that solar never works at night!

When we think about wind, we think, well it blows almost all the time here in Montana, that should be a good supplier to the base load. Unfortunately, it is on and available between 14% – 18% of the time; only good for a base load if you want power and energy 14% to 18% of the time.

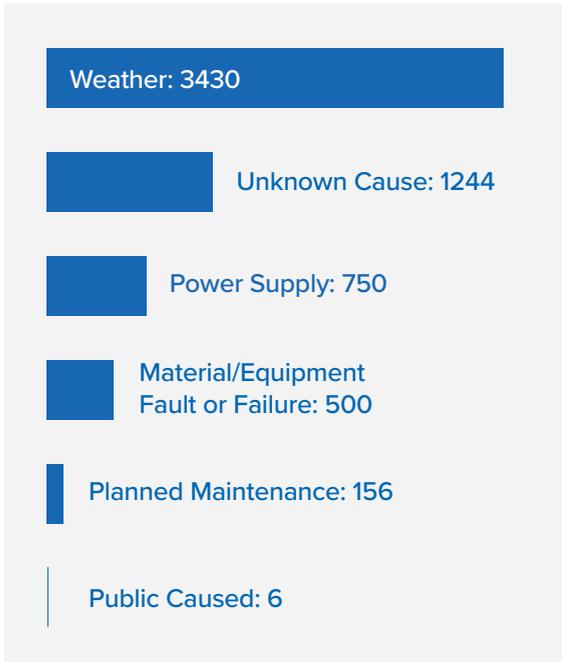
This is not to say renewables are bad. They are okay supplements for the grid, if they continue to get our tax dollars to supplement their creation and use. So, when you are running your air conditioner in the summer and your heaters in the winter, just remember that it is the base load that is fulfilling your needs at the time.

We will talk next month about what a peak is and what the answer is for sequestering CO2 emissions for the future and still having a base load available twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week all year long.

As always, stay safe, be healthy and enjoy the fall as long as it lasts.

HCE Happenings

Last month, Hill County Electric (HCE) had approximately 6086 account hours affected by outages. Of these hours:



Stump Selected for HCE Non-Traditional Student Scholarship

Congratulations to Marva Stump, the winner of the first-ever Non-Traditional Student Scholarship offered by Hill County Electric! Marva holds many roles that include mother, grandmother, wife, full-time working professional, and full-time student. Recently, she decided to work toward her long-standing dream of obtaining her Business Management degree with an emphasis on Project Management.



HCE recognizes that getting a job or staying competitive in today's workplace involves showing employers you have the skills and experience to get the job done. In many cases, returning to or starting college is a must. Congratulations once again to Marva Stump on pursuing her dream. We wish her success in pursuing her degree!

HCE is proud to offer up to two scholarships per year to adult learners who are going to or returning to college for education training to improve their career opportunities. To learn more or apply, please visit our website www.hcelectric.com/community/scholarships.

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Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Water heating accounts for a large portion of home energy bills. To save energy (and money!) used for water heating, repair any leaky faucets, install low-flow fixtures and insulate accessible hot water lines. When it's time to purchase a new washing machine or dishwasher, look for models that are ENERGY STAR®-certified.

Source: Dept. of Energy

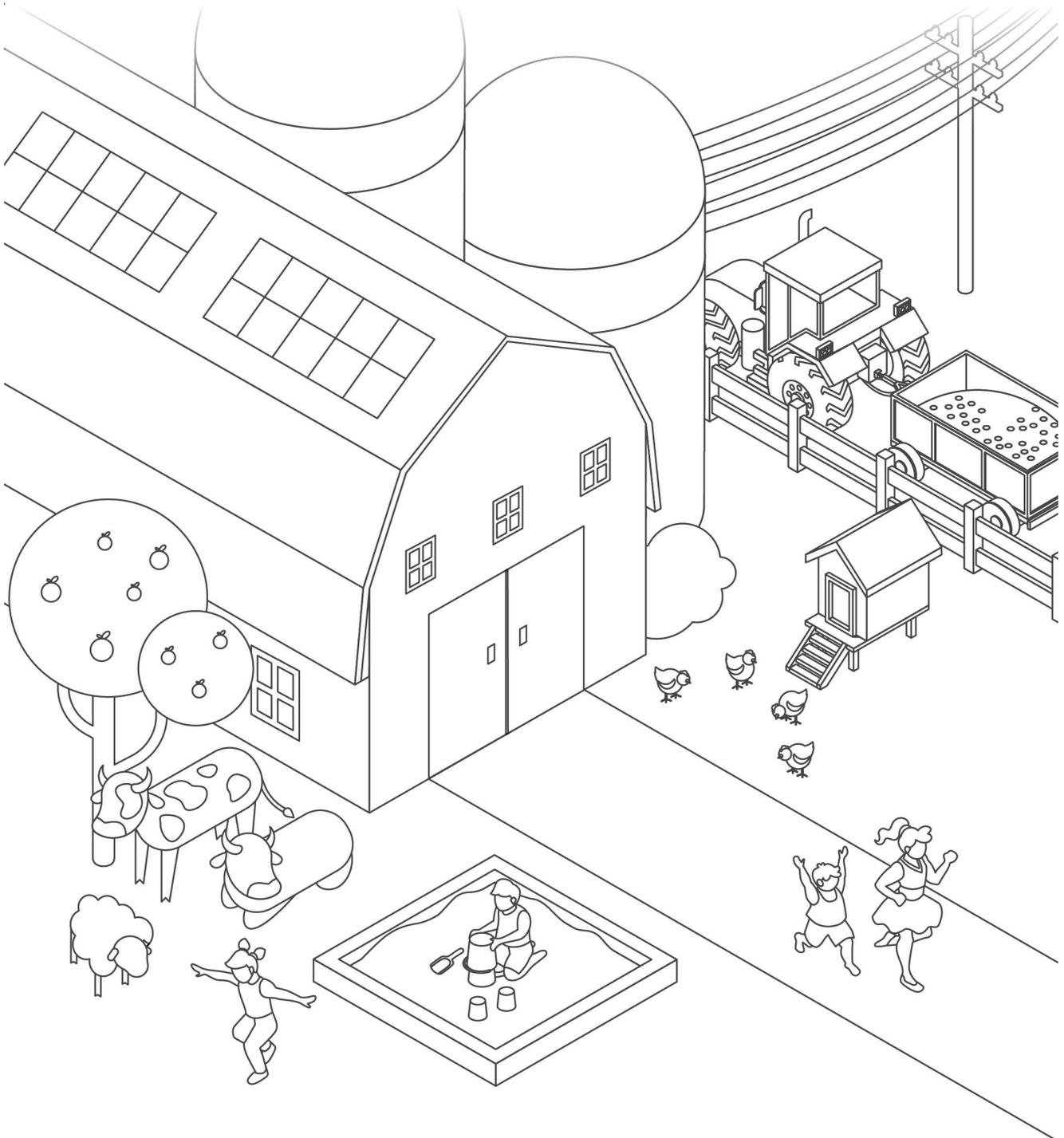
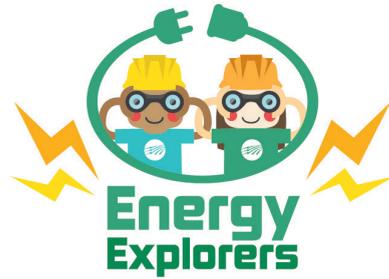
Call **BEFORE** you dig!!

Please remember to dial **811 BEFORE** you dig!

You can also submit a request online by going to montana811.org

National Farm Safety and Health Week

Farm Safety and Health Week is September 18-24!
Whether you live on a farm or in the city, always play it safe near power lines and other electrical equipment.



Swap and Shop

Welcome to our Swap and Shop! Feel free to post and find classifieds from other members!

Check out the current version online at www.hcelectric.com/swap-and-shop. Ads submitted online are usually added within 2 to 3 business days. Due to print deadlines and space available, some ads may appear in the next magazine.

King Kutter Rotary Mower

3-point 6 ft wide King Kutter rotary mower. Like new, asking \$2,000. Call 406.355.4936.

Boat and Motors for Sale

11-foot aluminum boat with 2 outboard motors, a 6hp two-stroke outboard motor, and a 2 hp two-stroke outboard motor. Includes fuel tank and oars. Best offer, call 406.669.3330 (no texts, landline only please).

Property for Sale

Located in a historic town where Lewis & Clark camped (Decision Point). Small home/original Great Northern Depot and 1 room schoolhouse all housing antiques, collectibles, and as-is items for sale. All merchandise and display equipment goes with the property. Priced to sell at a reasonable offer. Call 406.739.4361 or 406.781.4245 for more information.

Wanting to Buy

Antique wood cookstove and horse drawn wagon. Call 406.707.0244.

Sleigh Bed, Dresser and Antique Organ

Sleigh bed and matching dresser. Asking \$350 for set. Old antique pump organ needs work. Asking \$50 for organ. Call 406.674.5520.

Delta AI Cream Separator*

Cream separator for sale, call for pricing 406.780.1572.

Wanting to Buy

Wanting to buy a 360 or 390 Ford engine, call 406.301.4035.

Ranchhand Grill Guard & Receiver Hitch

Ranchhand grill guard and front receiver hitch plus all mounting hardware that fits 2014 Ram 1/2-ton 4x4. Please call 406.390.3522 for an appointment to inspect or to ask questions. Reasonable offers are desired.

Ginger McSpadden Dulcimers for Sale

Two ginger McSpadden dulcimers in excellent shape. \$150 each, call 406.932.4583.

Grain Lifters

John Deere and Gaterman grain lifters for combine or swather. Call 406.622.5170 for more information.

Dexter Trailer Axle

Dexter trailer axle, 7-foot wide, P-15 Model SLR with electric brakes. Asking \$100, call 406.547.2184.

MinnKota Motor

MinnKota endura boat motor, 40 lbs. thrust. Asking \$100, call 406.547.2184.

Two Perception Caspia Kayaks*

Two Perception Caspia Kayaks with skirts and graphite double-blade paddles. These kayaks were bought brand new in 1996. Very gently used and in excellent condition. The boats are very stable due to their relatively wide beam. Asking price is \$375 for each boat, including skirts and paddles. Would negotiate a discount if you buy both boats. Call 406.547.3803, leave a message if no answer and owner will reply ASAP.

National Finals Rodeo Tickets for Sale

National Finals Rodeo Tickets in Las Vegas, 2 tickets. Five (5) nights December 1-5, 2022, seats located in Sec 226, Row H, seats 15 & 16. Asking \$825.00, call 406.759.5894.

Singer Sewing Machine*

Singer sewing machine with cabinet, \$300. Call 406.402.0622.

Misc For Sale

Small Pot Belly woodstove with stove pipe, 1950 era Royal typewriter, manual Olympia typewriter, Seventec collegiate typewriter. Call 406.930.2200 for pricing and more information.

Wood Oars

7-foot wood oars with oar locks, like new. Asking \$70, call 406.547.2184.

**Indicates photo available on our website version.*

Swap & Shop is a classified advertising section of the Triangle Communications and Hill County Electric websites and newsletters. It is maintained as a service to customers and communities wanting to buy, sell and announce non-commercial items. To have an ad included, simply enter all the pertinent information on the online form. An administrator will review the information within two business days and if approved, the ad will then appear. It will stay online for 60 days unless you notify us to remove or change it. It will also appear in any of the newsletters printed during that 60 day window. Triangle reserves the right to abbreviate ads and if the section is full, we will display ads on a first come, first-served basis. If you're unable to enter your ad online you may mail or e-mail it to us using the contact info inside the front cover of this magazine. Happy swapping and shopping.