



# HILL COUNTY ELECTRIC NEWS & VIEWS

Jan 2020



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hillcountyelectric.coop



Craig Gates  
General Manager/CEO

## CEO January Message

Happy New Year! We have just taken the first steps into 2020, but we all know before long the school year will be coming to a close and summer will be here.

Each year, Hill County Electric (HCE) offers scholarship opportunities to students who are planning to attend

college in the fall and whose parents or guardians are members of HCE. For more information or scholarship applications, visit our website at [www.hillcountyelectric.coop/apply-scholarships](http://www.hillcountyelectric.coop/apply-scholarships).

Below is a quick overview of the scholarships available. I encourage all eligible students to apply soon, the scholarship deadlines are approaching fast!

**MECA Memorial Scholarship-** Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association (MECA), of which Hill County Electric Cooperative (HCE) is a member, awards a \$500 scholarship each year. In addition, HCE chooses a student from those applying for the MECA scholarship for a \$500 HCE member dependent scholarship. **Deadline is January 15th.**

**Basin Electric Scholarship-** Basin Electric Power Cooperative (BEPC) provides a \$1,000 scholarship to be awarded by HCE annually to a member's dependent. HCE also selects a student from all those applying for the Basin scholarship for a \$500 member dependent scholarship.

**Deadline is February 1st.**

**HCE Tell Us Your Story Scholarship-** HCE members and member dependents enrolled or planning to enroll in an accredited college this fall are encouraged to apply for the Cooperative's \$1,000 "Tell Us Your Story" Scholarship. This unique scholarship is solely based on the information you provide to the committee. **Deadline is March 1st.**

**Lineman Workforce Development Scholarship-** HCE offers a \$1,000 scholarship for a student residing in one of the five counties served by HCE and who is entering an accredited lineman school with plans to work in Montana as a lineman. **Deadline is March 1st.**

**MSU-Northern Electrical Technology Scholarship-** HCE offers a \$500 scholarship to a student who is entering or currently enrolled in the Electrical Technology program at Montana State University-Northern in Havre, Montana, with plans to work in Montana in the electrical technology field. **Deadline is March 1st.**

HCE encourages all eligible students planning to attend college as an undergraduate in the fall to apply for these scholarship opportunities. HCE's Trustees make decisions with our future in mind to provide opportunities for our area youth to grow, learn, and be part our HCE's future. They are always impressed with the students who apply and the quality of the applications they receive.

We will also be announcing soon HCE's selection(s) for the 2020 Youth Tour to Washington DC. Thanks to all those who applied!

# HCE Happenings

Last month, Hill County Electric (HCE) had approximately 1,428 account hours affected by outages. Of these hours:

This compares to 2,134 hours one year ago.

**Equipment/Material failure: 16**

**Misc or unknown: 12**

**Underground faults: 43**

**WAPA/NWE: 1357**

## Electrical Safety Checklist

Nearly half of all home fires occur during winter months. Take a few minutes to identify and correct any potential electrical hazards to ensure the safety of your home.

### SWITCHES AND OUTLETS

- **Are any switches or outlets warm to the touch?** YES NO  
Warm switches or outlets indicate an unsafe wiring condition.
- **Are any outlets or switches discolored?** YES NO  
Discoloration indicates dangerous heat buildup at these connections.
- **Do plugs fit snugly into outlets?** YES NO  
Loose-fitting plugs can cause overheating and fires.

### CORDS

- **Are any cords cracked, frayed or damaged?** YES NO  
Damaged cords can expose wires, causing shock or fire hazard.
- **Are any cords pinched by furniture or windows, or attached to anything with staples or nails?** YES NO  
Pinching and/or stapling cords can damage the insulation, causing shock or fire hazard.
- **Do you use extension cords on a permanent basis?** YES NO  
Extension cords should only be used temporarily.

### ELECTRIC PANEL

- **Do you have recurring tripped circuit breakers or blown fuses?** YES NO  
If yes, this could indicate you're exceeding a safe level of electrical current.
- **Do you have arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs)?** YES NO  
AFCIs provide greater fire protection. Check your circuit breakers for the AFCI label.



## Opportunities Up For Grabs!

Don't Miss These **DEADLINES!**

**\$500** MECA Scholarship - Jan 15<sup>th</sup>

**\$4,000** Basin Electric Scholarship - Feb 1<sup>st</sup>

**\$1,000** Tell Us Your Story Scholarship - March 1<sup>st</sup>

**\$1,000** Lineman Workforce Development Scholarship - March 1<sup>st</sup>

**\$500** MSU-N Electrical Tech Workforce Development Scholarship - March 1<sup>st</sup>

**\$400, \$200, \$300 & \$500** Luck of the Draw Scholarships @ Annual Meeting

Call 1.800.332.1201 or visit [hillcountyelectric.coop](http://hillcountyelectric.coop) for more information!



Please note this is not a comprehensive safety checklist. Visit [ESFI.org](http://ESFI.org) for more information. Source: ESFI



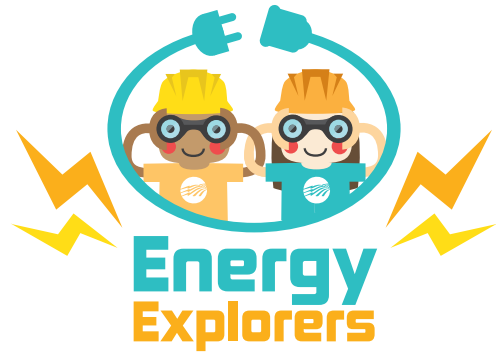
HILL COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE



# ENERGY SAVINGS WORD SEARCH

Did you know there are many ways you can help save energy in your home?

Read the energy efficiency tips below and circle the **bolded** words in the puzzle.



O E S P W F W A T E R S Y E S  
 A L L R S A E T D E I A L S R  
 T E X K E J T O G H C E P X E  
 L C O O G G Z E N X C N M N W  
 B T B F M X R R R T B X Q K O  
 G R I S M M R A R H C L I D H  
 X I S Y K Y E O H X E V A F S  
 I C B X X I N Y B C N A P J I  
 A I G Y Z I H F H X C F T Y E  
 U T U N C W U Y X Z O M B E S  
 U Y Z S E M F P O R V N V T R  
 R E F R I G E R A T O R H E Q  
 E V J M Q S D M D F V G N Y L  
 W M E O F P N T K W I H X Q I  
 G N I H T O L C R L S S B R D

- Turn off **lights** any time you leave a room.
- Keep the **refrigerator** door closed to save energy.
- Wash **clothing** in cold water to reduce the load on your **water heater**.
- Unplug items that consume **electricity** even when they're not in use, like cell phone **chargers** and coffee makers. These are known as "phantom load" **electronics**.
- Take **showers** instead of baths – showers require less **water** use.

# SWAP AND SHOP

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

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!

## **1967 Ford Thunderbird**

Two-door classic vehicle with a 390 engine, has an excellent interior but needs some minor bodywork and paint. Asking \$8,000, call 406.357.4282.

## **Leer Topper**

2016 Leer topper off a 2006 short bed Chevy. Topper is taller in the back to make lots of room, like-new condition. Can send pictures, call 406.379.2605.

## **Electric Service Loop**

200 amp electric service with loop, mast and wires. Located in Harlem area. Asking \$150, call 406.353.4462.

## **Tractors and More**

IHC Industrial tractor with loader, T9 IHC Caterpillar with dozer and grapple bucket (older one), 990 David Brown tractor with loader and Suzuki 200 2x4 four-wheeler (as is). Call 406.739.4361 evenings for more details.

## **Misc Items**

For sale a post pounder, three-point cement mixer and pickup box off 2001 pickup. For pricing and more information call 406.945.0905.

## **2016 Dodge Ram (Price Dropped)**

2016 Dodge Ram 1500 crew cab with four-wheel drive, a 5.7 Hemi, traction control and back up camera, 49,540 miles. Runs great and is powerful. Price reduced from \$26,900 to \$22,499, call 406.390.6946. No texts, please.

## **Hay**

Hay barley net wrap round \$70 a ton. Grass alfa/sanfoin mix round net wrap \$65/2nd cutting. Alfalfa net wrap round \$100. Grass hay net wrap \$80. Alfalfa grass small square bales \$3 a bale 406.473.2202 or 406.671.6633.

## **Pontiac Bonneville**

1997 Pontiac Bonneville extremely well maintained, asking \$5,000 or best offer. Call 406.372.3276.

## **F350 Ford Flatbed**

1994 F350 Ford Flatbed pickup 4x4 with manual transmission. Odometer reads 190,383 (as is). Asking \$3,500, call 406.654.2784.

## **Toolboxes and More**

Two diamond plated toolboxes for short box pickup, one Craftsman workbench toolbox with multi drawers. Also, a heavy-duty electric start snowblower and Ford Ranger pickup topper. Please call 406.547.2450 for more information and prices.

## **Grass Alfalfa Hay**

About 500 bales grass alfalfa hay at 1400 lbs. Excellent quality, no rain. \$90 per ton. Call 406.547.3549.

## **Alfalfa and Grass Hay**

Two kinds of hay for sale: alfalfa/grass hay 1400 lbs for \$90/ton and grass hay 1375 lbs for \$80/ton. Call or text 406.366.3288.

## **Fertilizer Spreader**

2015 BBI Liberty fertilizer spreader. Pull behind model, like new. Asking \$25,000, call 406.654.4031.

## **Gold Mining Equipment**

Keene brand mining equipment for sale. Brand new, never used. Call 406.473.2266 for more information.

## **Portable Building To Move**

14'x24' Amish built storage shed for sale, you move. Brown with a green roof. Wired for electricity, has two (2) 8 ft fluorescent lights, steel adjustable shelving and redwood porch. Asking \$7,850 for everything (was \$8,500 brand new). Call 406.473.2266.

## **Vintage Wood Stove**

Vintage wood stove for sale. In very good shape, perfect for a cabin or a shop. A bargain at \$100. Call 406.622.3605 or 406.788.2717.

## **Aluminum Concrete Forms**

140 ft. of 8 ft. slightly used concrete forms. Plus, 700 ft. of well used concrete forms. Some with brick pattern. Asking \$25,000, call 406.292.3662.

## **2005 John Deere Disc Air Drill**

Air drill with mid-row banders, 430 bu 1910 cart. Seed monitors on all towers with all new discs and fertilizer towers. Asking \$64,500, call 406292.3662.

## **Wilray Fuel Tank**

2014 Wilray double wall fuel tank. Holds 10,000 gallons, double wall fuel tank. Has some external cosmetic damage, but repaired and ok'd by certified welder. Never had fuel in it, no pump. Asking \$10,500, call 406.292.3662.

## **Kirby Vacuum**

Kirby vacuum, never used. Call 406.622.3397 and make an offer.

## **In Search of Olds Cutlass Parts & More**

Looking for 82-85 Olds Cutlass for parts. Also looking for information on parts, manuals, companies with Olds catalogs, etc. Call 406.879.6167 or send information to Pete Spring PO Box 463 Chinook MT 59523.

## **Hay Handler/Unroller**

Worksaver Model HHU-2045 hay handler/unroller. Designed for use on Category I or II tractors with a 3-point hitch. Round bales up to 2000 lbs, from 42" to 72" in width. Excellent condition with little use and always stored inside. Asking \$1,000, call 406.932.6775 or email brete@itstriangle.com.

## **Grapple Rake**

Grapple rake for compact tractor front loaders. Worksaver model FLGR-4062S. For logs, brush, medium-sized rocks, etc. Not for skid steers, for use on 20-48 hp tractors. Asking \$1,500, call 406.932.6775 or email brete@itstriangle.com.

## **Chevrolet Malibu LT**

2008 Chevrolet Malibu LT four-door sedan, champagne color. Excellent condition, clean with only 61,300 miles. Asking \$5,500. Call 406.397.3333.

## **Fifth Wheel Hitch**

Fifth wheel hitch with rails included. Asking \$100, call 406.366.6476.

## **Property in Harlowton**

On the corner of Central Ave and Hwy 12 in Harlowton, MT. Made up of 6 lots (24,150 sq. ft.) with two buildings. Building one is a store front, shop and warehouse with a total of 4,348 sq. ft. The second building is 1,246 sq. ft. Owner is selling all for \$350,000, not willing to split up. Call 406.239.3797 for more information or to request more pictures.