



HILL COUNTY ELECTRIC NEWS & VIEWS

Jan 2021



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hillcountyelectric.coop



Craig Gates
General Manager/CEO

CEO January Message

Happy New Year!! It is so nice to have 2020 behind us. Let us hope that 2021 is not at all like 2020. I hope all of you are staying healthy and have gotten through or stayed healthy despite this pandemic.

As we move into 2021, I would like to share that we at Hill County Electric (HCE) are still focused on bringing our members power and making sure the services you purchase

from HCE continue to be reliable at a low rate.

We hear a lot about the “green new deal” and renewable energy alternatives to carbon producing generation. HCE obtains much of our energy from the Western Area Power Authority or WAPA. WAPA provides energy to us via 100% Hydro. Hydro means the power we receive comes from already established dams across Montana, Wyoming, and Colorado.

The remaining energy comes from Basin Electric Power Cooperative (Basin), a cooperative that HCE belongs to through our Generation & Transmission cooperative, Central Montana Electric Power Cooperative. Basin is currently producing their energy with 40% coal, 25% wind, 19% natural gas, 7% market purchases, 5% hydro, 3% oil/diesel/jet fuel and the remainder by recovered energy.

To give you an idea just how far Basin has diversified since the year 2000, when they were 85% coal, 11% hydro and 4% oil/diesel/jet fuel. The reason for hydro dropping from 11% to 5% is because the demand on Basin has increased and there are no new dams being built. In 2000, Basin produced 2,839 megawatts of capacity and in 2020, they produced 7,003 megawatts of capacity. They also announced a new 203 megawatts of solar that will be added to the total capacity of Basin.

Basin is also working on a carbon capture project for coal plants at its Dry Forks Station in Wyoming. If it proves to be successful, it very well could be a game changer for coal in the future. As we look at the idea of less carbon output and move forward to address the concerns of less carbon being released into the atmosphere, Basin may have an answer.

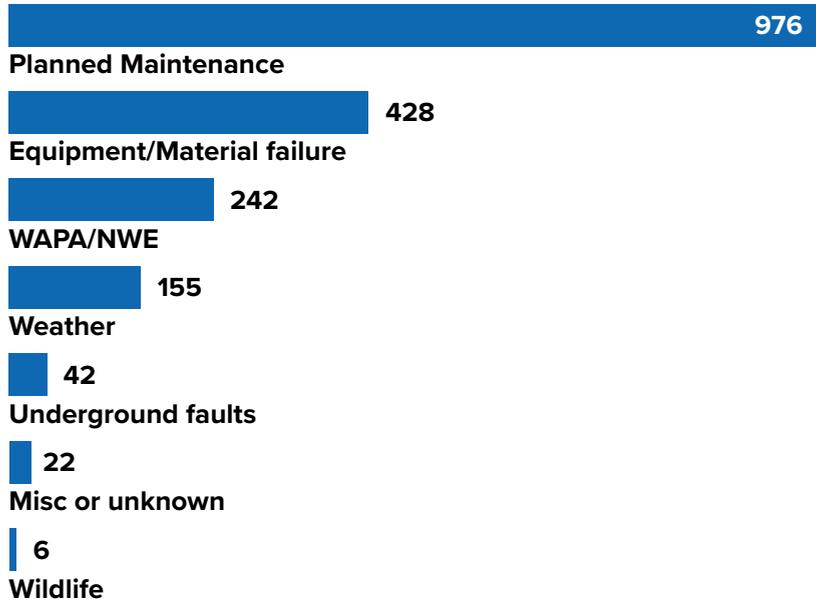
Some will say we must move to a “coal free world”; unfortunately, none of the current practices or the currently planned generation methods will be able to produce a coal free world. Here is what the 2019 energy generation output for the US was: 108 terawatt hours of solar, 303 terawatt hours of wind and for coal and natural gas it is 2,754 terawatt hours. To make up that difference would require a projected use of 40% of America’s land mass, thousands of miles of new transmission lines and the total output of rare earth metals for the U.S. alone would have to increase the world’s output by an unachievable factor. I will not go too far into to global politics; however, China has procured the rights to over 80% of those rare earth minerals around the world. You can start to see what issues may arise if we continue to think that the U.S. has to use 100% renewable energy.

This is not to say that HCE is not interested in conservation of carbon released into the atmosphere, we are; however, also realistic as to what can be completed in the next few decades. We also understand our rates will go up over 200% if we were to move to an all-renewable energy supply. If that number seems too high, check, and see what California customers pay for power. They are not even at the 100% renewable energy delivery level yet. Germany is another good example; they pay on average \$0.32 cents per KWH for residence rates versus HCE’s \$0.1025 per KWH for residence rates.

To close this month’s message, I want to thank you all for working with us through 2020 and the mess that it was. Hopefully, 2021 will be a much, much, much better year. Stay safe and stay healthy!

HCE Happenings

Last month, Hill County Electric (HCE) had approximately 1,871 account hours affected by outages. Of these hours:



This compares to 1,428 hours one year ago.

COMMON UTILITY SCAMS: DISCONNECTION DECEPTION

Scammers call and threaten service disconnection, demanding immediate payment.

BE PREPARED BEFORE A STORM STRIKES

In the event of a power outage, be prepared by keeping the following items in an easy-to-find emergency supply kit.



■ WATER

Three-day supply, one gallon per person per day.



■ TOOLS

Flashlight, extra batteries, manual can opener, battery-powered or hand-crank radio, NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert.



■ FIRST AID KIT AND PRESCRIPTIONS

First aid supplies, hand sanitizer and at least one week's supply of prescriptions and medications for the family.

Learn more at www.ready.gov



Source: American Red Cross, Federal Emergency Management Agency.

2021 ENERGY EFFICIENCY CALENDAR



There are so many ways you can save energy! Saving energy helps reduce your family's monthly bills – and it helps our environment. Change your energy use habits by following the monthly tips below. Keep this calendar on your refrigerator to remind family members to be energy efficient throughout the year.

JANUARY

Turn off ceiling fans when you leave room.



FEBRUARY

Instead of turning up the heat, put on an extra layer of clothing or stay cozy under a blanket.

MARCH

Turn off lights when you leave a room.



APRIL

Ask an adult to help you plant a tree to help shade your home in the summer.

MAY

Decorate your backyard or porch with solar-powered lights.

JUNE

Take short showers instead of baths.



JULY

Dry heavy linens outside on a clothesline instead of using the dryer.

AUGUST

Ask an adult to help you schedule a reminder to change the A/C filter every 60-90 days.

SEPTEMBER

Turn off running water while brushing your teeth.



OCTOBER

Unplug energy vampires, like chargers, gaming consoles and cable/satellite boxes.

NOVEMBER

Remind family members to use cold water when washing clothes.



DECEMBER

Decorate your home with energy-saving LED holiday lights.

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!

Cadillac Deville

1995 Cadillac Deville V-8, 4-door. Asking \$1,575, call 406.326.2287.

Property For Sale in Loma

Opportunity for small-town living with wildlife and fishing access. For sale at a bargain price, 4 lots and 4 buildings originally housing a second hand and antique shop. Call 406.739.4361.

7000 Watt Honda Generator

Nice to have on hand for power outages. Electric start and 114 hours. Asking \$4,000, call 406.654.2756.

House For Sale

Two-story, 24'x36' house with 4 bedrooms and one bath to be moved. Call 406.654.2756 for price and pictures.

Wanting to Buy

Looking for a 1972 Chevy Cheyenne, 3/4 ton automatic 4x4 truck. The more original parts the better but will consider projects. Call 406.459.2074.

2002 GMC 2500 HD Duramax Diesel

Crew cab 4x4, rebuilt engine, and drive train with receipts. Includes heated leather seats and mirrors, onboard air compressor with horns, 2-speed on-demand high idle, grill guard, trailer brake controller, and more. Also, have 4 studded snow tires, P235-50R-18 mounted on GM wheels. Call 406.390.0629 or 406.265.4026.

Gooseneck Trailer

Donahue 18-foot Gooseneck stock trailer. New paint and tires. Call 406.326.2287.

1962 Avion Trailer

Twenty-seven foot, 1962 Avion project trailer. Asking \$500, call 406.399.3620.

In Search Of

Wanting a large breed pup prefer less than six months old. Call 406.399.3620.

Wanted to Buy

Women's bike at least a 3 speed. Call 406.547.2266.

Stainless Steel Drop Visor

Two-inch stainless steel drop visor comes with brackets. Fits a 2009 Kenworth or newer. Asking \$150, call 406.357.4282.

1974 Versatile Tractor

1974 850 Versatile tractor serial# 850-050194 and 9N tractor with loader, non-running. Call 406.355.4298.

Indian Spirit Roadmaster

2003 Indian Spirit Roadmaster with 1500 S&S engine, Baker 5 speed transmission, and only 3,900 miles. Very well maintained, price is firm. Contact Larry at 406.239.3797.

Buildings For Sale By Owner

Located in Harlowton, MT on the corner of Central Ave and Hwy 12. Property is made up of six lots (24,150 sq. ft.) with two buildings. Buildings #1 is a storefront, shop and warehouse totaling 4,248 sq ft. Building #2 is 1,246 sq. ft. Asking \$350,000 for all, not willing to split up. Will consider all reasonable offers. Call Larry at 406.239.3797 or message for more information and/or pictures.

Property For Sale In Harlowton

Within walking distance of Harlowton business district and schools. Seven improved lots, one with a concrete pad for trailer house. Nice lawn, shade, fruit trees plus a large garden area, and 653 sq. foot garage/shop. Asking \$75,000, call Larry at 406.632.5847 or 406.239.3797.

Snow Dogg Snow Plow

Plow has a 7 1/2 foot straight blade, like-new condition. Equipped for a Ford 3/4 ton pickup but could be fitted to something else. Cost \$4,175 ten years ago, will take \$2,000. Call 406.378.3233.

Jiffy Ice Drill

Model 30 Jiffy ice drill. Used but in good shape, made in the USA. May be seen in Fort Benton, call 406.622.3605.

1967 Ford Thunderbird

This classic car runs great, has a clean interior, and is in good condition with some minor bodywork required. Asking \$8,000, call 406.357.4282.

Brand For Sale

Quarter Circle R Lazy S. Cattle left rib, horse left shoulder. Electric branding iron included. Brand is currently registered in Chouteau County, MT. Call 406.737.4232. (see website for photo of brand)

1969 Chevy C-10 Long Box Pickup

Straight, original 92,500 miles with 396 engine. Has new wheels, tires, seat and carpet; minor rust. \$6,000 firm, call 406.572.3445.

720 John Deere Row Crop Tractor

Runs great, has Pony motor and two (2) brand new tires on the back (never used 15-5-38). Asking \$6,500, call 406.669.3183.

1997 Pontiac Bonneville

Well maintained 1997 Pontiac Bonneville, great road car. \$4,000 OBO, call 406.372.3276.

House in Chester

House for sale in Chester. Three bedrooms and two baths with large great room plus front and rear vinyl decks. Many updates including new furnace and air conditioner. Large detached garage sits on 3 lots with underground sprinklers. Both house and garage have new metal roofs. Asking \$160,000 or best offer, call 406.292.3663.

John Deere Combine

1989 John Deere combine 6600 spreader. Includes 22-foot header, diesel, hydro with 3424 hours. Good machine, will cut a lot of acres yet, also a lot of extra parts, etc. Call 406.355.4479 and leave message (day or evening).

Wanting To Buy

1968-1972 1/2 ton Ford cab and front fenders. Preferably red, no rust, and in Sweet Grass county or surrounding counties. Call 406.932.5413.