



HILL COUNTY ELECTRIC NEWS & VIEWS

February 2023



1.877.394.7804  
hillcountyelectric.coop

February CEO Message



Craig Gates
General Manager/CEO

If you look around your home, you likely have more devices and equipment that require electricity more than ever before. Our connected lives are increasingly dependent on more electricity to function. As demand for electricity rises, Hill County Electric (HCE) delivers an uninterrupted 24/7 power supply.

Electricity use fluctuates throughout the day based on consumer demand. HCE must be able to provide enough electricity to meet the energy needs of all members during times of high energy use or “peak hours.” These peak times are typically in the morning as people start their day and in the evening as people return home.

What you may not know is that HCE pays based on peak load during those morning and evening peak hours. As you can imagine, the demand for electricity is even higher when it's especially cold outside, when heating systems run longer to warm our homes and in the summer during times to cool the home from the heat of the day.

During peak hours when the cost to produce and purchase power is higher, we encourage you to take simple steps to save energy, such as turning your thermostat down a few degrees, turning off

unnecessary lights when out of the room and waiting to use large appliances (clothes dryer and water heaters if electric) until off-peak times.

You can also save energy by plugging electronics and equipment into a power strip, then turn it off at the switch during peak hours. If you have a programmable thermostat, adjust the settings lower when no one is home. By reducing energy use during periods of high electricity demand, we can relieve pressure on the grid and the cooperative can save a little money along the way.

Another benefit of using energy in the non-peak hours is it allows greater control over your bill. Reducing the peak hour impacts on the power-supply reduces costs to every co-op member. This is particularly noticeable as energy costs have risen across the U.S. Conserving energy and making small changes can truly make a difference, now and in the future.

Remember, taking simple steps to save energy throughout the day and shifting energy intensive chores to off-peak hours is a good choice for you and for our cooperative. And for those environmentally focused, lowering the peak demand on the grid, lowers the carbon footprint of the grid.

Remember, be safe and stay healthy!

HCE Happenings

Last month, Hill County Electric (HCE) had approximately **2,387** account hours affected by outages. Of these hours:

Weather: 1897

Material/Equipment
Fault or Failure: 186

Planned Outage: 146

Power Supply: 119

Unknown: 39

February Fun Facts

- February is the only month that can go without having a full moon.
- In February 1964 the Beatles made their first American television appearance on the “Ed Sullivan Show”.
- February is one of the most misspelled words in the English language.
- Over time, the length of February kept changing. At one point, it only had as little as 23 days.

HCE Scholarships and Teacher Appreciation Program

Hill County Electric Cooperative (HCE) is committed to the seven cooperative principles, one of which is to provide education and training for its members. As part of this commitment, the Cooperative offers scholarship opportunities to its members and member dependents. Several scholarship deadlines are fast approaching on March 1, 2023.

The **HCE Tell us Your Story scholarship** is available to members or member dependents enrolled or planning to enroll in an accredited college. This \$1,000 opportunity is a unique scholarship based solely on the information you provide to the HCE selection committee. Apply online before March 1, 2023.

The **Lineman Workforce Development Scholarship** is a great offering for students who are entering an accredited lineman school and who plan to work in Montana as a lineman. Students must reside in one of the five counties served by HCE to be eligible for this \$1,000 scholarship. Apply online before March 1, 2023.

HCE also offers a \$500 scholarship to a student who is entering or currently enrolled in the Electrical Technology program and Montana State University - Northern in Havre, MT. Applicants for the **MSU-Northern Electrical Technology scholarship** must reside in one of the five counties served by HCE and must be a member or member dependent. Apply online before March 1, 2023.

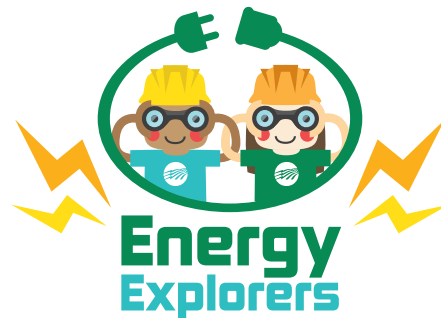
At HCE, we recognize the difficulty in recruiting and retaining good, quality educators in rural schools across the state of Montana. Through our **Teacher Appreciation Program**, we are proud to offer an annual \$1,500 award to an educator within HCE’s service area. The teacher must teach at a Class B or smaller school in our service area. The teacher does not have to be a member of Hill County Electric. Apply online before March 1, 2023.

Please encourage your friends and neighbors to apply for these opportunities! More information can be found at www.hcelectric.com under the Community tab.

ELECTRICAL SAFETY WORD SCRAMBLE

Electricity is essential for our daily lives, but it can also be dangerous if you don't play it safe!

Read the safety tips below and unscramble the bolded text to complete the phrase. Use the answer key to double check your work.



1. Never place extension **rdsoc** under rugs or carpet.

2. Make sure electrical cords are not **yrafde** or broken.

3. Smoke **maalsr** should be tested every month.

4. Place electrical cords in areas where you won't **itpr** on them.

5. Keep flammable items at least 3 feet away from space **shetear**.

6. Electricity and **rwtea** never mix.

Answer key: 1) cords 2) frayed 3) alarms 4) trip 5) heaters 6) water

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.

Triangle Communications is offering the following items for sale to the public:

Continental Conti Hybrid Tires For Sale

6 each Continental Conti Hybrid HS3 225/70R19.5 tires. \$600 for a set or \$100 per tire. Only driven 10 miles. Call 406.394.2879 for more information.

Hankook Smart Flex Tires For Sale

14 each Hankook Smart flex DH 35 225/70R19.5, 4 each Hankook Smart flex AH 225/70R19.5. \$600 for a set of 6 or \$100 per tire. Driven approximately 5,000 miles. Call 406.394.2879.

Pirelli Scorpion ATR Tires For Sale

8 each Pirelli Scorpion ATR 265/70R17. \$400 for a set or \$100 per tire. Only driven 10 miles. Call 406.394.2879 for more information.

2015 GMC Sierra 3500 SLE For Sale

Crew cab with 4-wheel drive, gas engine with 183,000 miles. Asking \$22,000. Can be sold with fiberglass utility service body \$4,500.

2013 GMC Sierra SLE For Sale

Crew cab diesel with 4-wheel drive. Has 230,00 miles. Needs new injection pump/injector. Comes with fiberglass utility box and pickup box. Asking \$8,000. Call 406.394.2879 for more information.

Fifth Wheel Hitch For Sale

Fifth wheel hitch in great condition. Manufactured by RBW Industries, model LR-1000. Asking \$200, call 406.945.3651.

John Deere For Sale

John Deere 60 wide front. Call 406.326.2287.

Farm Equipment For Sale

CIH 9280, 5500 hrs, very good 24.5-32 tires. CIH 1680 Combine 4500 hrs, very good 30.5-32 tires. CIH SRX 160 Sprayer with 1600 Gallon tank, 134' booms, 10x70 swing away auger. Call 406.398.5593 or 406.265.0937.

Don Greytak Print*

Don Greytak picture with 12 farm pictures. Asking \$100, call 406.292.3680.

John Deere Single Hitch*

John Deere Single hitch for 9400 or 9450 Grain Drill. Asking \$200, call 406.292.3680.

Tin Lizzie Sewing Machine

Tin Lizzie 18 long arm sewing machine and 10' Gracie frame. \$5500 or best offer. Call 406.292.3663.

Restorable Vehicles

Many older model restorable vehicles. Call 406.395.4611 to see.

Miscellaneous Household Items

Monarch electric and wood cook stove, solid teak wood dining table and chairs with casters, old banjo needs tuning and heavy water heat radiators (2) 6 footers and (1) 3 footer. Call 406.395.4611.

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 406.669.3333 (no texts, landline only please).

Dutchman 5th Wheel Toy Hauler

Two slides, generator, microwave, roof air, 10-foot walled-off garage with tie-down rails and awning. Turn key with dishes, silverware, pots and pans, and some blankets. Stored inside, non-smoking and very clean older owners. Or without any extras. Asking \$28,900 offers or will possibly consider trades. Call 406.265.0990.

1985 Versatile Blade

1985 Versatile 5000 blade, 35.5 ft. Asking \$2,500, call 406.378.3212.

Misc Items For Sale

Weight Bench with weights, \$300; Older piano; Bull Frog Hot Tub, needs repairs, \$200, call 406.378.3212.

**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.