





# HILL COUNTY ELECTRIC NEWS & VIEWS

December 2022



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hillcountyelectric.coop



Craig Gates  
General Manager/CEO

## December CEO Message

Last month we reviewed demand of the peak at your home and on our system. We covered how the base load that we reviewed in September makes the peak possible. Now we are going to look to see what produces CO2 and how we either avoid it or sequester for the climate.

Nuclear gives off zero CO2 emissions while generating power and energy. Did you know that all nuclear waste in this country can fit in an area less than the size of one football field? The new methods of nuclear power generation are using small modular reactors that are much safer and can be combined in multiples of modular reactors to produce large amounts of power and energy. When you hear about nuclear, don't think of 3-mile island or Chernobyl, think of a new safe technology that has distinct safeguards and nonproliferation goals. If you want to learn more visit: <https://www.energy.gov/ne/advanced-small-modular-reactors-smrs>

Hydro, or dams, also emit zero CO2 emissions while generating power and energy. Although it is almost impossible to build a new dam in America, the ones we have provide most of the power and energy used in your homes today. There are environmental groups trying to destroy America's dam infrastructure, but please fight against those groups when you see it or are asked to join a grassroots movement against those that are trying to destroy our dams. There is currently nothing that can replace these dams when it comes to clean energy.

Coal and natural gas give off CO2. Natural gas emits much less CO2 than coal, in fact, about half the amount. Natural gas can also be called upon (turned on) when you need it for an increased load for the grid. This is because

of the ability to ramp up the turbine quickly any time, day or night, wind or no wind, sun or no sun. Coal is still the main stay for many in the country and produces CO2 output as a byproduct. However, there are new methods being used and new ones being created that will allow CO2 to be sequestered.

BASIN Electric is headquartered in Bismarck, North Dakota. It is a cooperative power and energy generator that supplies a small portion of our power and energy to the cooperative. Today at BASIN, CO2 is captured and sent via an underground pipeline to Canada that uses the CO2 where it is physically pumped into the ground and does not escape to the atmosphere.

BASIN has also created a center in Wyoming, located at their Dry Forks Station. This project is co-funded by the Department of Energy. The pilot project consists of a Membrane Technology and Research (MTR) carbon dioxide capture plant to prove this technology will work. These membranes have emerged as a capture technology which may offer advantages over mine-based capture alternatives. The membrane technology is simple, compact, and environmentally friendly with no emissions. This would be ideal for the future.

Are we serious about providing energy in the future by using the above technology that will allow us to keep the power on and deliver no CO2? Or do we only want wind and solar, which as we have covered, will not provide a reliable base load? Seems like a straightforward answer.

As always, stay safe and stay healthy.

# HCE Happenings

Last month, Hill County Electric (HCE) had approximately **2466** account hours affected by outages. Of these hours:

Planned Maintenance/Outages: 1343

Material/Equipment fault or failure: 1041

Public Caused: 53

Animals: 15

Unknown Cause: 12

Weather: 2

Hill County Electric recently approved a change to how we bill irrigation accounts effective 1/1/2023. Hill County Electric will switch to rates based on kW vs horsepower on the irrigation pump. Members will no longer need to reach out to Hill County Electric when they change their pumps out or increase horsepower used. The change is intended to be revenue neutral for the Members and Hill County Electric, but may provide savings to Members with variable frequency drives that do not operate the motor at max output. Please reach out to our office if you have any questions regarding your irrigation meters.

### IRRIGATION ACCOUNT CHANGES

Conversion from HP to kW  
 1 HP = 0.7457 kW  
 1 HP = \$15.00 - Existing charge with HP  
 1HP = \$20.11 - New charge with kW

#### OLD billing method

**\$1,500**

100 HP motor connection fee

#### NEW billing method

**\$1,499.60**

100 HP equals 74.57kW of load.  
 74.57 kW \* \$20.11 = \$1,499.60.



## Jim Sands Received 2022 Power Up Award

For the third year, MECA presented the Power On and Power Up awards for deserving employees who work in the operations department at their cooperative. The criteria for both awards is the same, however the Power Up award is given to employees who as inside employees while the Power On award is for those employees who work outside.

The 2022 Power Up winner was Jim Sands of Hill County Electric Cooperative. He was nominated by manager Craig Gates. Mr. Gates had the following things to say in his nomination of Mr. Sands.

*Jim is always open to help other cooperatives and willing to take a call from anyone with a question, either from another cooperative or a member to share his knowledge...Jim has gone the extra mile to ensure a culture of safety is maintained at HCE... Any time a member helps our crews out, Jim sends them a handwritten note thanking them for helping the cooperative. The thank you note cements into the member's mind that they are owners of our cooperative and shows the appreciation that HCE and Jim have for their patronage...Jim Sands is a quiet, but extraordinarily strong leader throughout the electric industry, a true believer and champion of the value of cooperatives.*

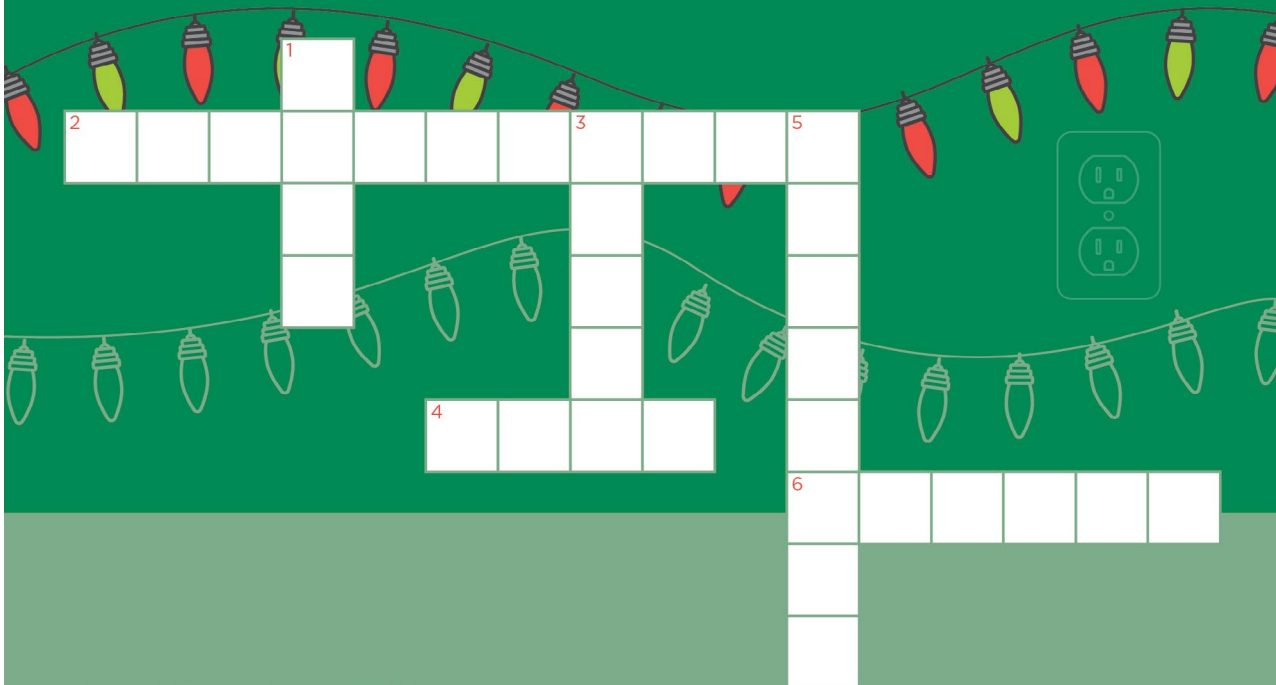
# HOLIDAY EFFICIENCY CROSSWORD PUZZLE

The holiday season is a fun, festive time of year! It's also a time when we use more electricity.

Complete the crossword puzzle below to learn how you and your family can be more energy efficient this holiday season.



1. **DOWN:** Decorate your \_\_\_\_\_ with energy-saving LED lights.
2. **ACROSS:** Smart or programmable \_\_\_\_\_ can help control heating costs if you're traveling during the holiday season.
3. **DOWN:** Save energy by using a \_\_\_\_\_ to turn off holiday lights at night.
4. **ACROSS:** If you have a fireplace, ask an adult to close the damper when a \_\_\_\_\_ is not burning.
5. **DOWN:** Open blinds and curtains during the day to let natural \_\_\_\_\_ in to warm your home.
6. **ACROSS:** Lower the thermostat when your family has \_\_\_\_\_ visiting during the holidays.



## ANSWER KEY

- |               |                        |                |                 |                   |                   |
|---------------|------------------------|----------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. DOWN: TREE | 2. ACROSS: THERMOSTATS | 3. DOWN: TIMER | 4. ACROSS: FIRE | 5. DOWN: SUNLIGHT | 6. ACROSS: GUESTS |
|---------------|------------------------|----------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|

# 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](http://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.

## 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.

## Tin Lizzie Sewing Machine

Tin Lizzie 18 Long arm sewing machine and 10-foot Gracie frame, \$5500 or best offer. Call 406.292.3663.

## Steel Headache Rack

Steel headache rack for full-size Chevy pickup truck. Steel stock pen with full wood floor, fits full-size pickup bed (up sliding gate). Please call to inquire and schedule to view. Reasonable offers encouraged, Call 406.390.3522.

## RYOBI Miter Saw\*

10" RYOBI Compound Miter saw in excellent shape. Call 406.759.551.

## Exhaust System

Unused and complete exhaust system. Stainless steel, fits 1994 Chevy Duramax 2500 Crew Cab long box. Like new and one continuous piece. Please call to make appointment to see and ask questions, 406.390.3522.

## Church Organs

One Lowry Organ and one Kawai Organ. In good shape and play well. You pick up and haul away. It's yours free, just want to get them out of the church. Call 406.366.4625.

## Gas Dryer and Snow Blower

Gas dryer, \$100 and a large snow blower, \$700. Call 406.395.4581.

## Wanting to Buy

410 Shotguns and Remington BDL rifles. Call 406.326.2287.

## Wanting to Buy

Looking to buy a 360 or 390 motor for a Ford pickup. Call 406.301.4035.

## Wanting to Buy

Looking to buy 1955 to 1959 Chevy car or pickup to restore or driveable, cash. Call 406.326.2287.

## 2010 Bad Boy Buggy

2010 Bad Boy Buggy XT LSV is a 48-volt Electric 4x4 with a front wench and flip-down rear seat, has a rack on top, a front rack with a camouflage body, and new batteries. Seats 4 people comfortably. Will also include the 4818 Dual Pro Charging System. Asking \$5,875, call 406.622.3277.

## Goodyear Wrangler Tires For Sale

Goodyear Wrangler light truck tires, size 265/65R 18 with low mileage, set of four. Call 406.398.5330.

## Miscellaneous Household Items

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

## Restorable Vehicles

Many older model vehicles. Call 406.395.4611 to view.

## Smoker Craft Jon Boat

12-foot aluminum Smoker Craft Jon Boat with 9/9 Mercury motor. Also includes 2 swivel seats, a depth and fish finder, oars, and a trailer with a cover. Asking \$2,400, call 406.622.3945 or see at 3945 Liscum Bottom Rd, Fort Benton.

## Concrete Tools

Includes bench and sheet music, sounds great. Asking \$250, text questions, messages to 406.561.6314.

## Misc Items For Sale

Bullfrog hot tub, needs repair \$200; older piano-refinished with bench; weight bench with weights, \$300; variety size new bolts by the number; 1985 Versatile 5000 series blade 35.5 ft, \$2500. Call 406.378.3212.

## Wanting to Buy

Looking to buy 1955 to 1959 Chevy car or pickup to restore or drivable, cash. Call 406.326.2287.

## 2001 Chevrolet Silverado

1500 extended cab, 132,000 miles. Very good condition. Call 406.398.5330 for pricing.

## Dutchmen 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 blankets. Stored inside, non-smoking and very clean older owners. Or without any extras. Asking \$28,900 offers or will consider trades. Call 406.265.0990.

*\*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.*