



Big Horn Rural Electric Company

# HIGHLIGHTS

LOOK FOR US ONLINE AT [WWW.BIGHORNREA.COM](http://WWW.BIGHORNREA.COM)



Photo submitted by:  
Ann Lewton

## DISTRICT MEETINGS & ANNUAL ELECTION



A HUGE THANK YOU to everyone who attended our District meetings in April and May! We enjoyed seeing all of your smiling faces, sharing information with you and having a chance to visit with you and answer any questions that may have been had.

In total, there were over 400 members that attended our district meetings. There were several topics that were discussed with members in attendance at the district meetings. One of the items that was emphasized was that our two-part rate structure will be moving to a three-part rate structure to better align Big Horn's cost recovery and give members more control over their monthly bill. We will continue to educate you, our members, throughout the rest of the year to help you understand how demand charge works.

Local caterers provided a free dinner from the co-op.

If you voted, remember your \$25 bill credit will show on your July dated bill!



We will be closed on July 2<sup>nd</sup> in observance of 4<sup>th</sup> of July!

### INSIDE

- Rate design change
- Energy tip of the month
- Energy audits
- 5 Ways to get your home ready for summer
- Scam tip of the month
- Recipe

#### July



- 1- Bills Sent Out
- 2- Closed (4<sup>th</sup> of July)
- 21- Auto Pay Day
- 27- July Bill Due

#### August



- 3- Bills Sent Out
- 21- Auto Pay Day
- 27- August Bill Due

## RATE DESIGN CHANGE

Big Horn REA will introduce a new rate design for its members beginning in 2027. This rate change will modernize Big Horn's rate structure to equitably recover operational costs across all the rate classes and provide members with another way to control their electric bills.

Big Horn has educated its members to use less energy through energy efficiency and conservation to save money on their bills. Energy usage patterns have evolved over time and demand for the electric grid is greater than ever, especially during hours when people head home from their daily activities to cook and take care of household chores. With this rate design change, members can choose not only to save and conserve energy but also shift their electric usage to lower their peak demand and reduce their monthly bill.

Big Horn is providing its members with greater control by separating its current energy (kWh) charge, which currently combines the cost of total energy use with the cost of peak demand on the electric grid. Big Horn's three-part rate structure will include the following components: service availability, energy usage (kWh), and peak demand (kW) charges.

This change will not only give members two ways to lower their bills, but will also promote rate equity among Big Horn's members. Under this new rate structure, each member will pay for their contribution to Big Horn's peak demand, independent of the amount of electricity that they consume.

This new rate will not create additional revenue for Big Horn. As a not-for-profit rural electric cooperative, Big Horn operates at cost.

Big Horn encourages members to become familiar with their electric bill and identify their current peak demand reading. Members may utilize their online portal to track current energy usage and strategize how to reduce peak demand. Future member education and communication will assist members with how to prepare for this change.

### ENERGY EFFICIENCY: <<< TIP OF THE MONTH



Running multiple major appliances at the same time—like your dishwasher, laundry machines and oven—can spike energy demand and strain the electric grid, especially during peak hours (typically late afternoon to early evening). Instead of stacking appliance use, spread it out throughout the day or shift chores to off-peak hours when energy demand is lower. This not only helps improve overall efficiency but can also reduce your energy costs. A simple habit change, like doing laundry in the morning and running the dishwasher overnight, can make a meaningful difference for both your wallet and energy reliability.

## ENERGY AUDITS

Did you know that Big Horn REA offers free energy audits?

For more information or to request an energy audit, please visit our website at <https://bighornrea.com/energy-audits>  
Or scan the QR code below to take you directly to the page!



# 5 WAYS TO GET YOUR HOME READY FOR SUMMER

Is your house ready to handle the hot, humid days of summer? Don't sweat it. With these simple steps, you'll stay cool and save all season long.

## 1. Get a tune-up

Hire a qualified professional to inspect and clean your air conditioning system. If your system is older or in need of repair, consider upgrading to a new ENERGY STAR®-certified unit. ENERGY STAR air conditioners are more efficient than standard models.

## 2. Install a Wi-Fi thermostat

Adjusting temperatures is the most effective way to reduce your cooling costs. Smart thermostats make it easy, automatically adjusting temperatures based on your schedule while providing the convenience of remote control.

## 3. Air seal your home

Check around windows and exterior doors for gaps or cracks where conditioned air can escape. Seal any gaps you find with weatherstripping for doors and caulk for windows. These products are readily available at your local hardware store or DIY retailer.

## 4. Check insulation

Make sure that your walls and attic are insulated according to levels recommended for your climate zone. A qualified insulation contractor, armed with an infrared camera, can inspect your home to ensure that it's insulated properly.

## 5. Change a bulb

How does changing out lightbulbs help get your home ready for summer? Traditional incandescent bulbs give off a lot of heat, wasting energy and making your cooling system work that much harder. High-efficiency LEDs bulbs are cool to the touch, giving your air conditioner a little relief. So, now's a great time to make the switch.

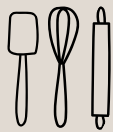
### Chill out

Your work is done. Your home is ready to handle whatever summer weather has to offer. Now all you have to do is relax and enjoy the cool comfort and the energy savings.



## SCAM TIP OF THE MONTH

Scammers are increasingly using “smishing” — fake text messages designed to look like they're from legitimate businesses, including your electric utility. These texts may claim your bill is overdue, your service will be disconnected or you're owed a refund. They often include a link that directs you to a fake payment site or asks for personal information. Never click suspicious links or respond to unexpected texts, even if the message appears urgent. Instead, log in to your utility account through the official website or mobile app to verify any claims. We will never ask for sensitive information like passwords or banking details through text messages.



# Recipe

• made with love •

Name of the dish

Navajo Tacos  
by Greg Tharp

## Ingredients

- 3 C all-purpose flour
- 4 ½ tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp kosher salt
- 2 Tbsp softened butter
- 1 ¼ C whole milk
- 3 C vegetable oil for frying

## Toppings

- 1 lb ground beef
- 2 Tbsp steak fajita seasoning
- 15 oz black beans(drained)
- 2 C iceberg lettuce
- 3 plum tomatoes (diced)
- sour cream
- shredded cheese

## Directions

- In a bowl, mix the flour, baking powder, salt, and butter until butter is worked in and crumbles. Make a well in the center and pour in the milk. Using your hand, bring everything together and knead a soft dough. Cover with a towel and set aside for 15 minutes.
- Brown the ground beef and seasoning in another skillet over medium heat. Add half cup of water and stir through, breaking up meat. Cook 10 minutes and set aside. Prep and have all other toppings ready in bowls to stuff the fried shells.
- On a clean surface, roll into log and divide dough into 12 equal pieces. Roll into balls and cover with towel. Take each dough ball and roll it out to a 6-inch circle. Prick several times with a fork.
- Heat oil in a deep skillet over medium heat to 350°F. Carefully lower the dough circle into the hot oil closest to you, draping away from you and submerge into oil (to avoid splashing). It will then immediately float and puff up (See Note 1).
- Let the dough fry for 30 seconds on side one. Using tongs, flip the dough over and gently fold the dough in half like a taco shell. Hold the dough in that position and continue to fry for 30 seconds more and outside is golden brown. Roll the shell over to cook other side.
- Remove the shell and let it drain on a paper towel lined plate or wire rack lined tray. Repeat with remaining dough balls (roll out, prick with holes and fry).



# WANTED

We would love to hear from  
our members!



Got a scenic photo of a place on our grid or a recipe created by you?

Please email us at [jazmin@bighornrea.com](mailto:jazmin@bighornrea.com) to have your photo or recipe added to our monthly newsletter!



If your submission is chosen to be published in our newsletter you will receive a \$25 bill credit!

## >>> BOARD OF DIRECTORS

John Joyce, President  
Manderson: 568-2514  
[jnjoyce56@gmail.com](mailto:jnjoyce56@gmail.com)

Willie Bridges, Vice President  
Cowley: 548-2545  
[willieb@pryormtneng.com](mailto:willieb@pryormtneng.com)

John Fernandez, Secretary  
Meeteetse: 272-1553  
[john.fernandez8614@gmail.com](mailto:john.fernandez8614@gmail.com)

Sara Schlattmann, Treasurer  
Otto: 921-2024  
[hortonwyo@gmail.com](mailto:hortonwyo@gmail.com)

Mike Miller, Director  
Greybull: 272-8241  
[michael.miller2522@gmail.com](mailto:michael.miller2522@gmail.com)

## FOR OUTAGE OR TROUBLE

Call the office number: ANYTIME  
(307) 568-2419 of 1-800-564-2419

After 5:30 p.m., weekend and holidays all calls will be answered by our professional answering service, who will contact the appropriate person(s).



Big Horn Rural  
Electric Company

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



PO Box 270, Basin, WY 82410  
(307) 568-2419  
FAX (307) 568-2402  
1-800-564-2419

[bhrec@bighornrea.com](http://bhrec@bighornrea.com)  
[www.bighornrea.com](http://www.bighornrea.com)

### Staff and Crew

Dotti Brown  
Rusty Burden  
Stacy Cortez  
Michael Flores  
Clint Getzfreid  
Todd Herman  
Carrie Hunt

Jazmin Irvine  
Wade Koehn  
Anthony Nelson  
Bill Phillips  
Tristen Snyder  
Greg Tharp  
Justin Workman

Manager: Jeff Pillow  
(307) 272-0748  
[pillow@bighornrea.com](mailto:pillow@bighornrea.com)

### Office Hours

Monday - Thursday  
7:00am-5:30pm

Make sure to check out our QR Code to reach our website quicker, and follow us on Facebook for any outage updates!



 [BigHornRuralElectric](https://www.facebook.com/BigHornRuralElectric)