

HILL COUNTY ELECTRIC • NEWS & VIEWS

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NOVEMBER • 2017

Manager's Message

By Craig Gates, General Manager/CEO



Well, we finally got some rain and by the time this comes out in November we may have already had snow. The rain helped those fighting the East Fork Fire and I think it just made everyone breathe a little easier, literally. I am still amazed by how community members, businesses and local residents banded together in a time of need. The word cooperation comes to mind when I think of how this all worked out.

So what is the definition of cooperation? One definition of cooperation is, "the process of working together to the same end". I think this is an excellent way to describe how Hill County Electric (HCE) operates. HCE's Board and Management work together with our power suppliers to provide safe, reliable power at the lowest cost to you, the member. Our



HCE Board members visit the Bonneau substation recently.

linemen look out for each other every day to make sure they are safe while working. Our team in the office works to make sure the needs of the members are met. These are all examples of HCE working together to provide you power safely and at the lowest cost.

This is just another reason why electric cooperatives are so important. We are local and community centered. Just like your favorite locally-owned shop, restaurant or store, we all



Our office team.

have a positive impact on our communities. HCE is different in one way because we are a not-for-profit business, our business is not to make money for shareholders. We work for you, the members, who own HCE. You have a say in how your

cooperative moves forward by being part of the cooperative through annual meetings. For those interested in learning more about electric cooperatives, HCE sponsors a member couple to be part of the Today's Members program during Montana Electric Cooperatives' Associations Annual Meeting. Be watching for more information in 2018 newsletters and at HCE's Annual Meeting in May.

As I wrap up my November message, I would like to wish our members a Happy Thanksgiving. We look forward to spending time with family and friends on Thanksgiving and we also honor our veterans on Veterans Day, Saturday, November 11th. Thank you to all veterans for your service and sacrifice.



HCE's dedicated linemen.

HCE will be closed in honor of Veteran's Day, November 10th and Thanksgiving, November 23rd - 24th. Please report any service issues by calling 1-877-394-7804.

Energy Efficiency for the Modern Family and Its Many Devices

by Anne Prince

If you are struck by the amount of screens, remotes, gaming controls, charging stations and cords that have become fixtures in your home, you are not alone. The typical American family is well connected and owns a variety of electronic devices. According to the PEW Research Institute, 95 percent of U.S. families have a cell phone and 77 percent of Americans own a smart phone. Nearly 80 percent of adults own a laptop or desktop computer, while approximately half own tablets.

Consumer electronics coupled with the growing array of smart home appliances and technology have slowly but steadily changed our homes and lifestyles. The increased reliance on our many devices has new implications for home energy use and efficiency.

So how can we save energy when we are using more electronic devices than ever before? The answer may lie with some of those same electronic devices that have become indispensable to modern living. In many cases, energy savings is a touchscreen away as more apps enable you to monitor energy use.

From the convenience of your mobile device, smart technologies can maximize your ability to manage electricity use across several platforms—controlling your thermostat, appliances, water heater, home electronics and other devices. One of the easiest ways to make an impact on energy efficiency is with a smart thermostat, like Nest models. Using your mobile device, you can view and edit your thermostat schedule and monitor how much energy is used and make adjustments accordingly. For example, program your thermostat for weekday and weekend schedules so you are not wasting energy when no one is home.

Check and adjust the program periodically to keep pace with changes in household routines.

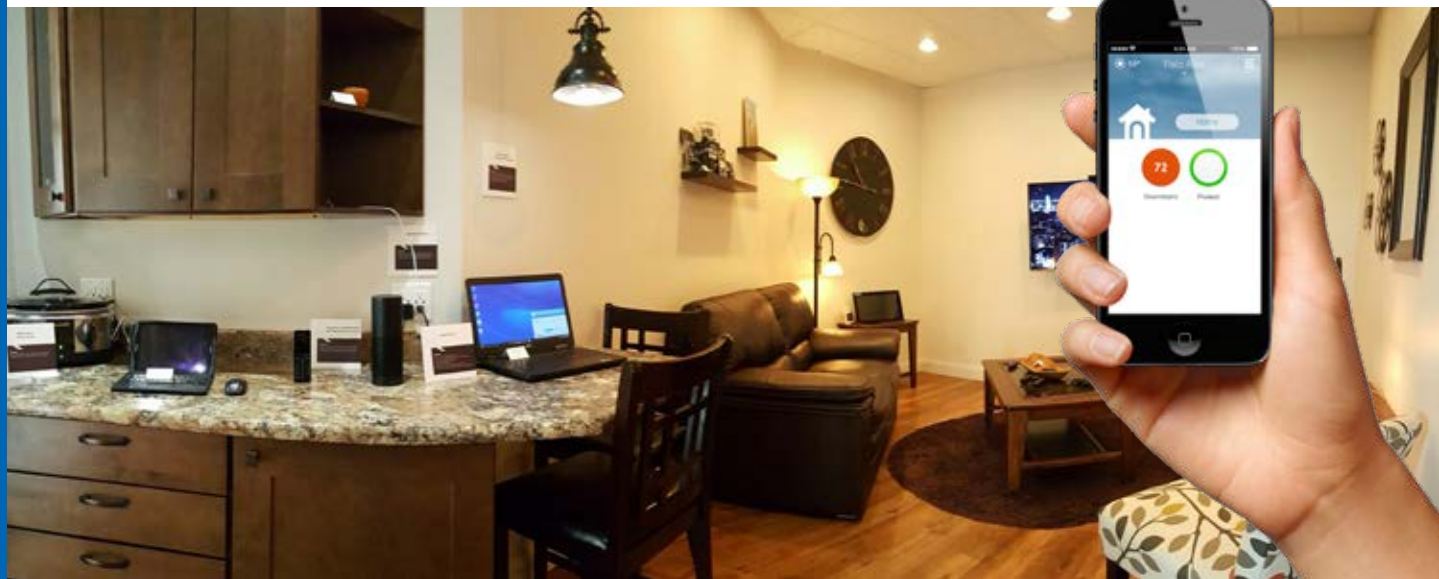


You can also ensure efficiency by purchasing ENERGY STAR-certified appliances. Many new appliances include smart-technology features such as refrigerators that can tell you when maintenance is required or when a door has been left open. New washers, dryers and dishwashers allow you to program when you want the load to start. This means you can program your task for off-peak energy hours—a smart choice if your electric rate is based on time of use.

Of course there are the time-tested “old school” methods of energy efficiency that can be applied to the myriad of household electronic devices and screens. Computers, printers, phones and gaming consoles are notorious “vampire power” users, meaning they drain energy (and money) when not in use. If items can be turned off without disrupting your lifestyle, consider plugging them into a power strip that can be turned on and off or placed on a timer.

While modern life involves greater dependence on technology, your best resource for saving energy and money remains your local electric co-op.

Anne Prince writes on cooperative issues for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.



Hali Goes to Washington D.C.!

Before orientation for the NRECA Youth Tour to D.C., I'll admit I was both excited and nervous. I was excited for this new experience, but at the same time, it would be my first time flying without my family with me. Those nerves immediately disappeared as I met the people who would be going on the trip with me. We were all different in our own ways, but we were also all connected in many other ways.



interesting to hear their perspectives on today's societal issues.

I could talk about the places that we went and the things we saw all day, because I haven't even mentioned all of them, but by far one of the best parts of the trip was the friends and relationships that I have gained. I would highly recommend applying for this trip because it is truly life-changing and eye opening. I have learned so much about our nation's history and how I can be a leader of today and tomorrow.



After we arrived in D.C., we went to the National Mall and saw the Washington Monument, Lincoln Memorial, and the WWI and WWII Memorials. The WWII Memorial was just one of the amazing sights that truly made us appreciate our freedom. Other memorable places were the Newseum, the Holocaust Museum, Smithsonian Museums, the White House, and Arlington National Cemetery. At Arlington National Cemetery, we were able to witness the Changing of the Guards, which was incredible.

One of the best parts of the trip was being able to visit Capitol Hill and talk to Senator Daines and Senator Tester and ask them questions. It was



Win a Trip to Washington D.C.

Tour Dates: June 9-15, 2018

Apply By: December 1

Essay Topic: Electric cooperatives offer various opportunities to young people, such as scholarships, job shadowing, electrical safety programs and sponsorships. What are some innovative ways Hill County Electric can connect with young people?

Visit hillcountyelectric.coop for more info.
**Youth must be a member dependent.*



1.877.394.7804  
hillcountyelectric.coop

Swap & Shop

SWAP & SHOP is a classified advertising section of the Hill County Electric and Triangle Communications websites and newsletters. It is maintained as a service to customers and communities wanting to buy, sell and announce non-commercial items. To include an ad, go to itstriangle.com/swap-and-shop and complete the online form. Administrators will review the information within two business days and if approved, the ad will appear on the website. It will stay online for 60 days unless you notify us to remove or change it. It will also appear in any of the HCE & Triangle newsletters printed during that 60 day window. HCE and Triangle reserve the right to abbreviate ads. If the section is full, we will display ads on a first come, first-served basis.

Agriculture

Farm Equipment for Sale

Farm King 3pt harrow-new, Mayrath 6x27 treating auger, Brandt hydraulic tailgate drill filler and 1985 Versatile 5000 series 35.5 ft blade. Call 406.378.3212 evenings.

New Holland 9682

1998 New Holland 9682 with 20.8x42 tires at 85%, auto steer, GPS, 4 hyd. all adjustable from the cab, front and rear weight kit, 3500 hours, very clean. Asking \$64,500, call 406.397.3332. *(Pictures available at www.itstriangle.com)*

New Holland Air Drill

2007 New Holland 58' air drill, 12" spacing, variable rate 430 cart, single shoot, very low acres. Call 406.397.3332. *(Pictures available at www.itstriangle.com)*

Versatile 946

1990 Versatile series 6 946 with 5600 hours, 4 remotes, new air seat, 20.8x42 tires at 35%. Asking \$25,500, call 406.397.3332.

Grain Bin Doors

Three used, complete American grain bin doors (rod & panel style), \$250 per door. Call 406.390.2638.

Combine, Sprayers and Drills

2012 Trail Tech combine header trailer. Will transport up to 26-ft. header, \$3,500. 2012 Case IH PS160 pull type sprayer, 100-ft. suspended boom, windscreens, AutoRate, AutoBoom, 1600 gal. tank, excellent cond., \$35,000. 1995 Concord 4012 40-ft. air drill, 12" spacing, w/3400 cart, new monitor and electrical, 5" carbide tips, good condition,

\$25,000. 2008 Summers 60-ft. suspended boom truck sprayer, windscreens, hydraulic boom lift, 500 gal. tank, 5hp Honda motor, \$7,000. Call 406.397.3333.

Water Pump For Sale

5.5 HP OHV Briggs and Stratton Intek motor. Pacer 2" pump. Lg. 2" valve with a 2" outlet & two 3/4" outlets. Less than 2 hrs. on it. Used for transfer pump w/water only, no chemicals. asking \$350. Call 406.622.5252.

Automotive/Recreational

ATV for Sale

Suzuki King Quad with factory snow blade. Completely serviced with new battery. Havre area \$900, call 406.262.5300.

1996 Buick Park Avenue

1996 Buick Park Avenue, 3800 super charge engine only, 136,000 miles. Call 406.326.2254.

2001 Oldsmobile Alero GLS

2001 Oldsmobile Alero GLS,, 2 door, needs head gasket, four new tires, power windows, power steering, rebuilt salvage title. Call 406.326.2254.

1959 international Travelall A100

3 door, all restored. Has a 4 speed transmission, three seats. Call 406.547.2154.

Miscellaneous For Sale

Old Hay wagon

Selling an old wooden hay wagon that is 16' long by 8' wide. Has rubber tires. Best offer, call 406.737.4486.



HCE Happenings

Last month, Hill County Electric (HCE) had approximately 1,419 account hours affected by outages. Of these hours:

- Equipment/Material failure: 781
- Underground fault: 207
- Weather or wildlife caused: 67
- Misc or unknown: 49
- Public caused: 315

This compares to 246 hours one year ago. Alamon continues to test poles in HCE's service area. They will test approximately 3,000 poles this year for HCE.

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

Don't forget to fall back on **November 5!**
Set your clocks back by one hour.