



LIGHT LINES

"THE POWER TO BRING YOU THE BEST"



NATIONAL & LOCAL EVENTS

JUNE 2024

Safety Month
Vision Awareness Month
Men's Health Month
Camping Month

DATE

16 Father's Day

16 Youth Day
17 Root Beer Day
18 Go Fishing Day
18 Wanna Get Away Day
19 Juneteenth
20 1st Day of Summer
20 American Eagle Day
21 World Day of Music
23 Let It Go Day
23 Hydration Day
24 Farmer Day
26 Forgiveness Day
26 Day of Joy
27 PTSD Awareness Day
28 Insurance Awareness Day
30 Meteor Watch Day

JULY 2024

Family Reunion Month
Grilling Month
Ice Cream Month
Picnic Month

DATE

1 Financial Freedom Day
2 Made in the USA Day
3 Redneck Day
4 Independence Day!
6 International Co-op Day
6 Hop-a-Park Day
7 Rock "n" Roll Day
9 BVEA Board Meeting at 8a.m.
9 Cow Appreciation Day
10 Wyoming Statehood Day
12 Amazon Prime Day
12 French Fry Day
15 Give Something Away Day
15 I Love Horses Day

CEO'S VIEWPOINT - NEW RATE DESIGN

We are excited to announce an essential update to our rate design: transitioning from a two-part rate for residential service to a three-part rate. This change ensures a fair distribution of fixed costs among all members while promoting more efficient energy usage.

Overview of the New Three-Part Rate

1. Monthly Basic Service Charge: \$52.00. This charge ensures that all members contribute their fair share towards the Cooperative's fixed costs. It covers the maintenance of physical facilities, billing, accounting, loan payments, insurance, and other member services. This charge is essential because year-round members would bear most of the fixed costs for seasonal residents without it. Even if you use no electricity for an entire season, the Cooperative still incurs these costs to maintain reliable service.

2. Kilowatt Demand Charge: \$1.25 per KW. This charge is based on your peak demand usage measured in kilowatts (kW) within a billing month. By managing your peak demand, you can potentially reduce your monthly bills. This charge helps align your billing with the Cooperative's demand costs, giving you more control over your electricity expenses.

3. Energy Usage Charge: \$0.045 per kWh. This charge applies to the energy you consume. It covers the cost of the actual electricity used.

Example of the New Rate in Action

Let's take a closer look at how this new rate structure will impact your bill. Consider the average home on the BVEA system, which typically has a monthly demand of 5KW and uses 750 kWh. Under the new three-part rate, the total bill would be \$92.00. This includes a \$52.00 Basic Service Charge, a \$6.25 Kilowatt Demand Charge, and a \$33.75 Energy Usage Charge. In comparison, the same usage under the previous two-part rate would have resulted in a bill of \$89.50, reflecting a percentage increase of 2.8%.

It's important to note that the percentage increase will be higher for members with larger homes, more household members, or all-electric homes with more appliances.

Managing Your Energy Usage

One of the best ways to reduce your demand charge is to use electric-powered devices in your home or business more conscientiously. Spreading out the time of use of these devices can help lower your peak demand. For example:

- Run your dishwasher at night after everyone has gone to bed.
- Use a programmable thermostat.
- Wash and dry clothes at times when you are not cooking dinner.

RATES continued on Page 2...

BRIDGER VALLEY ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

P.O. Box 399
Mountain View, WY 82939
Phone: 307-289-0776

www.bvea.coop

Office Hours

Standard Time
8:00am - 4:00pm
Monday - Friday

Daylight Savings Time
7:00 am - 5:30pm
Monday - Thursday

CEO/General Manager

Andy Hewitt

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

District 1

Gary Nix, Vice President
Lacey Bernard
Mountain View, Robertson, Uintalands, Manor Lands

District 2

Jason Haycock
Rick Maxfield
Lyman Area

District 3

Ruth Rees, Secretary/ Treasurer
Ft. Bridger, Milburne, Carter, Piedmont, Bear River Area (excluding Uintalands & Manor Lands)

District 4

Clark Anderson
McKinnon, Manila, Dutch John Areas

District 5

Trip Applequist
Farson, Eden, Granger Areas

To Report Outages Call:

307-289-0776
24 Hours a Day

Underground Cable Locates:

Call 48 Hours in Advance
800-849-2476
or dial 811

Publication of Bridger Valley Electric Association, Inc.

FROM THE BOARD ROOM

The Board met on May 21, 2024, and took the following actions:

- Approved the minutes of the April 27, 2024 meeting;
- Heard audit report from Phil Tippetts of the accounting firm of DeCoria & Company, PC regarding the financial audit for the year-end 2023. The firm gave an unqualified opinion and the board approved the audit;
- The board and management discussed potential change ideas to the bylaws of the cooperative;
- Reviewed the current boundaries of the directors' districts;
- Heard reports from the CEO and department managers;
- Approved financial report, write-offs, estate refunds, new memberships, and the safety report;
- Heard reports from Deseret G&T, URECA, WREA, and Federated Rural Utility Exchange representatives;
- Next regularly scheduled meeting will be June 11, 2024.

CEO'S VIEWPOINT (cont.)

...**RATES** continued from Page 1

By strategically managing your demand, you help the Cooperative avoid the need to secure more generation and build additional facilities such as transmission lines and substations to meet growing demand needs. This, in turn, helps keep rates lower for all members.

Fairness and Efficiency

Charging for demand now creates a way to treat all residential members of the Cooperative more fairly. The new rate design aligns the costs you incur with the demands you place on the system, thus promoting a more efficient use of resources and supporting the long-term sustainability of our electric service.

Other Rate Class Changes

In addition to the new residential rate design, we are implementing several minor changes to other rate classes, as outlined below:

Small General Service

Facilities Charge: \$52.00
Energy Charge: \$0.045/kWh
Demand Charge: \$1.25/kW
Tariff Sheet: No. 2

Large General Service

Facilities Charge: \$52.00
Energy Charge: \$0.045/kWh
Demand Charge: \$1.25/kW
Tariff Sheet: No. 3

Large Power 350 KVA or Less

Facilities Charge: \$120.00
Energy Charge: \$0.035/kWh
Demand Charge: \$14.50/kW
Tariff Sheet: No. 4

Large Power 350 KVA to 2000 KVA

Facilities Charge: \$52.00
Energy Charge: \$0.045/kWh
Demand Charge: \$1.25/kW
Tariff Sheet: No. 5

Thank you for your attention to this critical update. We are committed to providing all our members with reliable, affordable, safe, and equitable electric service. If you have any questions or need further information, please do not hesitate to contact our member services team.

Sincerely,



Andy Hewitt, CEO/General Manager



ALWAYS, ALWAYS, ALWAYS
CALL AT LEAST 48 HOURS
BEFORE YOU DIG!



ENERGY SCAMS UNMASKED

Consumers with water, gas and electricity connections have long been targets for utility scams. But in today's digital world, every swipe and click increases the risk of potential scams.

Scammers are more sophisticated than ever before, and they understand our increasing reliance on technology. With their sharpened digital knives, scammers have adapted their tactics to trick unsuspecting consumers through a variety of methods.

Bridger Valley Electric Association wants to help you avoid energy scams, whether a financial loss or leak of your personal information. This month, we'd like to share updates on some of the latest utility scams, as well as tips to help you stay safe from even the craftiest scammers.

Recent Utility Scams

Scammers typically disguise themselves—either physically or digitally—as utility employees or representatives to steal consumers' money or personal information. A common trick is to claim a consumer's bill is past due and threaten to disconnect service if payment isn't received immediately. Scammers approach consumers through a variety of means, including phone calls, text messages, emails and even in-person visits. However, the digital line of attack is increasingly more common.

For example, new capabilities disguising caller ID or "spoofing" can make the phone number you see on caller ID appear to be from a trusted source. Spoofing makes it easier for scammers to deceive you because it's more difficult to immediately verify the call. Another recent scam uses fraudulent websites that are identical to a utility payment webpage—and what's worse, these pages are often promoted on search engines to trick consumers into clicking and making a payment.

Another recent scam involves phone calls, text messages or emails claiming you overpaid your electric bill and will receive a cash or banking refund. This offer may seem too good to be true, and it is—it's likely a scam aimed to steal your personal information.

Spotting a Scam

There are several red flags you can watch for to identify an energy scam.

SIGNS OF AN

ENERGY SCAM

High-Pressure Tactics

Scammers will pressure you, creating a sense of urgency. Claims that your power will be disconnected without immediate payment are common with utility scams.

Sketchy Payment Methods

Scammers may ask for unusual payment methods like gift cards or cryptocurrency. In these cases, it's likely a scam.

Dodgy Communication

Whether an email, text message or letter, utility scams typically include poor grammar, spelling errors or unusual email addresses. These are common warning signs of a scam.



SCAMS continued on Page 4...

ENERGY SCAMS UNMASKED (cont.)

...SCAMS continued from Page 3

What BVEA Will (and Won't) Do

BVEA will never demand an instant, immediate payment and threaten to disconnect your service without prior notices or warnings. We strive to resolve challenging situations and work with our members to avoid disconnects.

BVEA will never call and ask for your Social Security number or banking details over the phone or through email. We offer several secure payment options, including in-person, over the phone with a member services representative, by mail-in check, at our website at bvea.coop, auto-draft payments, or by using our SmartHub app.

Avoiding Scams

Whether in-person, over the phone or online, always be suspicious of an unknown individual claiming to be a BVEA employee requesting banking or other personal information.

If you're ever in doubt about a potential energy scam, just give us a quick call at 307-289-0776 so we can assist. BVEA wants to help protect you and our community against utility frauds, and by notifying us about potential scams, you can create the first line of defense. We encourage you to report any potential scams so we can spread the word and prevent others in our community from falling victim.

Anne Prince writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing nearly 900 local electric cooperatives. From growing suburbs to remote farming communities, electric co-ops serve as engines of economic development for 42 million Americans across 56% of the nation's landscape.

3

WAYS

TO SEAL IN COMFORT

In addition to increased comfort, weatherizing your home is an excellent way to save energy and lower your cooling and heating costs. Here are three ways you can seal in comfort and savings.



Caulk
Apply caulk around cracks and openings between stationary components like door frames and window frames.



Insulate
Adding insulation is an effective weatherization strategy, especially for older homes. Consider additional insulation in areas like an unfinished attic, exterior walls and floors above uninsulated spaces.



Weatherstripping
Install weatherstripping around components that move, like doors and operable windows.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

TIP OF THE MONTH

Did you know ceiling fans can help you save energy? Ceiling fans create a windchill effect on your skin to make you feel a few degrees cooler. Raise the thermostat a few degrees and turn on fans to reduce air conditioning costs.

Set fan blades to rotate counterclockwise during summer months and clockwise during winter months. Remember, ceiling fans cool people but don't actually lower the indoor temperature. Turn them off when you leave the room.

Source: energy.gov

