

# HIGHLINE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

*The Beacon*

MARCH 2020



## MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 57  
Holyoke, CO 80734-0057



## STREET ADDRESS

1300 S. InterOcean  
Holyoke, CO 80734



**ph** 970-854-2236  
**tf** 800-816-2236  
**fax** 970-854-3652  
**email** info@hea.coop  
**web** www.hea.coop



facebook.com/HighlineElectric

**Our mission** is to provide our members with reliable, high-quality electricity and other needed services, which will improve their economic and social well-being and provide significant long-range benefits for our communities, our state and our nation.



HIGHLINE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION  
IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY  
PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER



Touchstone Energy®

# WE ARE HERE TO SERVE YOU

BY DENNIS HERMAN GENERAL MANAGER



DENNIS HERMAN

In the United States, the vast majority of people receive their electricity from one of three types of utilities: investor owned, municipal owned or through an electric cooperative, which is owned and controlled by the people who use its services.

Let's take a closer look at these three types of ownership models and see why it matters to you. In the investor-owned model, the corporation is owned by a great number of stockholders who may or may not be customers of the utility. Investor-owned utilities tend to be large corporations such as Xcel Energy. They typically serve areas with high load densities, with many electric meters per mile, such as large cities, suburban areas and some rural areas.

In most cases, investor-owned utilities have few employees in the communities where they operate. This, combined with the fact that they have outside investors whose sole motive is to make a profit on their investment, generally tends to lead to less personalized service. Consumer surveys confirm that IOUs have the lowest customer satisfaction ratings. About 72% of the U.S. population is served by investor-owned utilities.

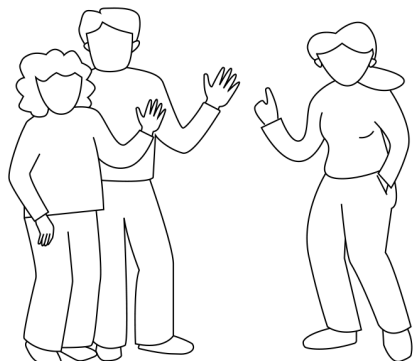
Municipal electric systems, as the name implies, are government owned. They can serve large cities, such as Loveland, Fort Collins or Colorado Springs, or smaller areas, such as Holyoke or Julesburg. In municipal systems, typically the electric system is managed by employees who report to an elected board of trustees. About 16% of the market is served by municipal utilities.

Rural electric cooperatives serve the smallest number of consumers, about 12% of the market, which equals 42 million people. There are more than 800 electric co-ops in 47 states in addition to Highline Electric Association. While co-ops serve the fewest number of people, co-op electric lines cover more than 75% of the U.S. landmass. This is because we provide power where others once refused to go because of the low population density and, in many cases, few meters per mile of line. Electric co-ops rank highest in member satisfaction among the three types of utilities. We believe this is because we serve consumer-members, not customers.

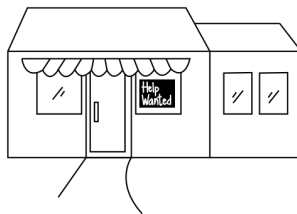
As the electric utility business continues to evolve, we are committed to being there for you, our consumer-members, to provide your electric energy needs. Unlike large investor-owned utilities, we are rooted right here in northeastern Colorado. Over the years, we answered the call to provide additional benefits and services because it is extremely important to us that our community thrives and prospers.

A few of the additional benefits that Highline Electric Association offers to our members are energy efficiency rebates, energy usage audits and safety programs. We also support the youth in our communities, offering the Washington D.C. Youth Tour, Youth Leadership Camp and various college tuition scholarships. Another important benefit to you, our consumer-member, is the return of margins in excess of expenses in the form of capital credits. There is a cooperative difference. You are the owners and we are here to serve you.

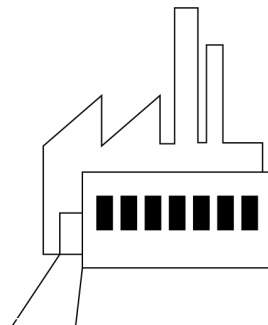
# Census data are being used all around you.



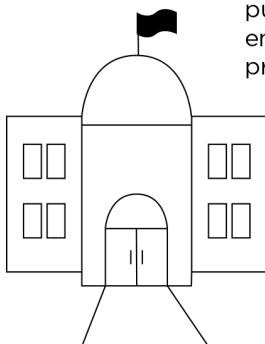
Residents use the census to support community initiatives involving legislation, quality-of-life, and consumer advocacy.



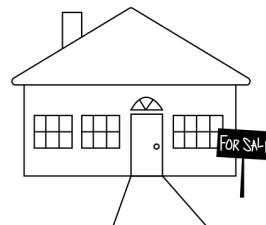
Businesses use census data to decide where to build factories, offices, and stores, which create jobs.



Local governments use the census for public safety and emergency preparedness.



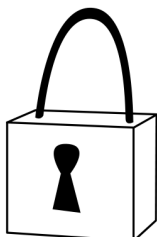
Real estate developers use the census to build new homes and revitalize old neighborhoods.



# Your privacy is protected.

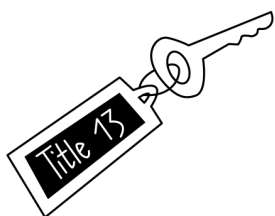
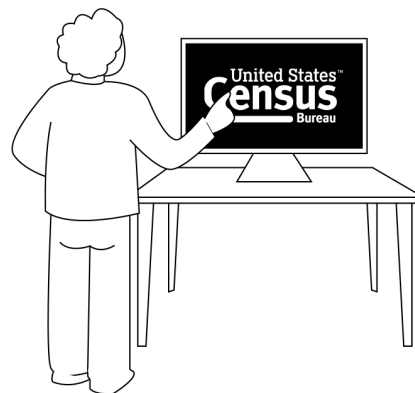
It's against the law for the Census Bureau to publicly release your responses in any way that could identify you or your household.

By law, your responses cannot be used against you and can only be used to produce statistics.



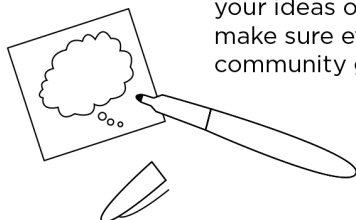
# 2020 will be easier than ever.

In 2020, you will be able to respond to the census online.



# You can help.

You are the expert—we need your ideas on the best way to make sure everyone in your community gets counted.



# You Are Invited to Highline Electric's Annual Meeting in March

Highline Electric Association's 2020 annual meeting is fast approaching. This will be Highline Electric's 82nd anniversary. The meeting will be **Tuesday, March 24, 2020**, in the Phillips County Event Center at the fairgrounds in Holyoke.

A meal will be provided. Doors open at 5 p.m. for registration and the meal will be from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. The business session will begin promptly at 6:30 p.m. You must be present to win one of the many door prizes, plus those in attendance will receive a gift.

President Mike Bennett and General Manager Dennis Herman will give their reports on the condition of the association.

An election will be held for three director positions. These positions require the nominees to be a member of Highline Electric and comply with Article III, Section 3 of the association's bylaws.

There will be two director positions from District 1, and the nominees must reside in Logan, Weld, Washington or Morgan county, Colorado. The incumbent directors for this district are Brad Stromberger and Pam Stieb

There will be one director position from District 2, and the nominee must reside in Phillips or Yuma county, Colorado. The incumbent director for this district is Aaron Sprague.

Petitions to nominate a director are available at all Highline Electric offices. Anyone nominated for a board of directors' position must comply with all the following rules:

1. The person nominated must comply with Article III, Section 3 of the bylaws, a copy of which may be obtained from any Highline Electric office.
2. A minimum of 15 signatures is required for nomination. Each member signing the petition must reside in the same district as the person being nominated.
3. Only members of Highline may sign said petition. If the membership is in joint tenancy, only one tenant may sign.
4. Circulators of said petition should attempt to verify the correctness of the name and address of each signer and must require that the signature take place in the presence of the circulator. The circulator should sign the affidavit at the end of said petition and have the affidavit notarized before submitting to Highline Electric.
5. All petitions must be received at Highline Electric Association, 1300 S. Interocean, Holyoke, CO 80734 or PO Box 57, Holyoke, CO 80734 on or prior to February 7, 2020.

## Rebates for Energy-Efficient Appliances

Like many of us, you may have an extra refrigerator in your basement or garage that you have had forever. Except for some dings and the ugly '60s paint color, it still runs and keeps your food and beverages cool, so why worry about budgeting for an upgrade?

Replacing a refrigerator made before 1993 with a new, Energy Star-rated model could knock \$65-\$100 off your electricity bill each year. And to sweeten the deal, rebates funded jointly by Highline Electric and Tri-State Generation and Transmission provide further incentives for folks replacing old appliances with new, energy-efficient alternatives. As a member of Highline Electric, you may qualify for rebates on certain energy-efficient equipment and appliances, such as Energy Star appliances, LED lightbulbs, premium efficiency irrigation motors and more.

Last year alone, Highline Electric and Tri-State issued over \$102,000 back to consumer-members for energy-efficient rebates. It doesn't take much to apply for these rebates. Most require a submission of your receipt or invoice, proof of Energy Star certification and account number of the service where the equipment or appliance is being installed.

### A few things to keep in mind about Highline's rebate program are:

- Rebates must be applied for within 120 days from the invoice date.
- Equipment being rebated must be installed on a Highline service.
- Rebates can be submitted online at [www.heacoop.com/Energy\\_Efficiency/SubmitRebate.aspx](http://www.heacoop.com/Energy_Efficiency/SubmitRebate.aspx).
- Rebates totaling \$25 or less will automatically be applied as a credit on the Highline account.
- For rebates totaling more than \$25, members can choose if they want to receive the rebate as a check or a credit on the Highline account.
- Submission of rebate information does not guarantee a rebate.

**Please call 970-854-2236 or go online to [www.heacoop.com](http://www.heacoop.com) to find out more or submit your rebate.**



**DAYLIGHT  
SAVING TIME  
BEGINS ON  
MARCH 8, 2020**

# INFORMATION FROM YOUR CO-OP

## Save Time and Keep Your \$\$\$

Enroll in Highline's Auto Pay program or pay online.

Benefits include:

- Easy, fast and secure
- Save money on stamps, checks and fuel
- Save time writing checks and driving

Your time is valuable so let your co-op work for you. Please call us at 970-854-2236, to setup your preferred auto-pay option.

## Choose EV

Tri-State has partnered with Choose EV to help its cooperatives educate consumer-members regarding EV ownership.

As part of this effort, we launched a new page on our website. You can navigate there from the link on the homepage, or you can visit <https://www.hea.coop/chooseev.aspx>.

There you can learn the benefits of electric vehicles; read through FAQs; calculate savings based on miles driven; learn about specific federal and state tax credits; read reviews on different EVs and hybrids; and find EV charging stations.



March 2020

## Energy Efficiency

### Tip of the Month

Placing hot food in the refrigerator makes the appliance work harder than necessary, using more energy. Allow food to cool down before you place it in the refrigerator.

Source: energy.gov

## HEA Donates Books to Haxtun Public Library



Highline Electric Association is proud to have won a collection of books from *Colorado Country Life* to donate to one of our local libraries.

Haxtun Public Library was selected as the library to receive 14 books valued at \$272. The books are a mix of fiction and nonfiction, including books by Colorado authors.

◀ Haxtun Public Library's Vickie Freemyer is pleased to add the donated books to the library's collection.

## Anniversaries

**Congratulations** to the following employees who observed an employment anniversary in March

- Mark Harshbarger ..... 45 years
- Deon Skomp ..... 27 years
- Jon King ..... 27 years
- Robie Adams ..... 16 years
- Ryan Bingham ..... 4 years
- Tracy Simpson ..... 4 years



**Controlled burns** must be managed safely around **power lines and poles.**



**Highline Electric** offices will close early for the annual meeting on March 24.

- **Holyoke** office closes at 4 p.m.
- **Ovid & Sterling** offices close at 3:30 p.m.

Attention Irrigators:  
**April 15** is the deadline to retire an irrigation service and avoid paying the annual minimum.

