

# HIGHLINE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

*The Beacon*

FEBRUARY 2024



## 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** 844-996-1318

**email** info@hea.coop

**web** 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.

**NEW OVID OFFICE HOURS:**  
HEA's Ovid office is open Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and on bill due dates.



HIGHLINE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION  
IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY  
PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER



Touchstone Energy®

## 2024 RATES – AGAIN

BY DENNIS HERMAN GENERAL MANAGER



DENNIS HERMAN

I have been discussing the rate increase coming in 2024 from our wholesale power provider, Tri-State Generation and Transmission over the past few months. As I mentioned before, Tri-State has filed a rate with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission that represents a rate increase and a cost realignment. The realignment reallocates Tri-State's cost recovery, which unfortunately, recovers more revenue from low load factor systems like Highline Electric Association. (You can review my explanation of load factor in my August 2023 article on our website at [www.hea.coop](http://www.hea.coop) by navigating to *Colorado Country Life* under the Community tab.)

As a result of the cost realignment from Tri-State, Highline has completed a Cost of Service study to aid in implementing the rate change. The COS study indicates that we need to implement rates that increase fixed cost recovery and decrease our variable cost recovery. In general, this means increases in access charges and the implementation of, or increase in, demand charges. The increase in fixed charges is countered by little or no change in energy rates, with energy charges decreasing in some instances. It was also evident from the COS study that there was a variance in cost recovery across rate classes. To alleviate this variance, the majority of the 2024 rate increase will be borne by increases to two rate classes:

- Farm and Residential will increase 7.1%
- Irrigation will increase 4.3%

The Highline Electric Board of Directors has approved the 2024 budget that includes an overall rate increase of 3.5%. This is half of the rate increase necessary to account for the wholesale rate increase from Tri-State.

Highline will utilize revenue that was deferred in prior years to cover the shortfall in our 2024 budget. We are anticipating a similar rate adjustment in 2025 to fully implement that wholesale rate increase from Tri-State.

This rate increase will go into effect with your bill due March 15. You will find a side-by-side comparison of the 2024 rate with the 2023 rate in this edition of *Colorado Country Life*.

For those irrigators that participate in our voluntary load control program there is a bit of a silver lining to the rate change. The discount that irrigators receive for participation in the load control program will be increasing across all five program options.

Tri-State has not raised its wholesale rate since 2016. Power suppliers across the Rocky Mountain West have increased their rates over the past few years, so it's not surprising that Tri-State needs a rate adjustment. Tri-State and Highline have both been subject to the same inflationary pressures that have been felt by all consumers over the last few years.

Highline's staff works diligently to provide you — our members — with safe, affordable, and reliable energy. As a nonprofit electric cooperative, we don't have the same profit motives that drive investor-owned utilities. Our members are our shareholders and drive everything we do. We will continue to work with Tri-State to provide you with the best value possible in your electric service.

# NOTICE OF RATE CHANGE

You are hereby notified that Highline Electric Association proposes to make the following changes in its tariffs, to become effective February 1, 2024. The increase in tariffs result in an average retail rate increase of 3.5% for the Association.

CLASS OF SERVICE	CURRENT RATE	EFFECTIVE FOR STATEMENTS DUE MARCH 15
<b>RESIDENTIAL:</b>		
<b>Rate Per Month:</b>		
Service Charge: Per meter per month	\$31.00	\$38.00
<b>Energy Charge:</b>		
First 750 kWh per month	\$0.1168 per kWh	\$0.1085 per kWh
Additional kWh per month	\$0.0797 per kWh	\$0.0850 per kWh
<b>Demand Charge</b> per monthly peak kW:	N/A	\$0.50 per kW
<b>RESIDENTIAL TIME OF USE:</b>		
<b>Rate Per Month:</b>		
Service Charge: Per meter per month	\$31.00	\$38.00
<b>Combined Demand and Energy Charge (October-April)</b>		
<b>On Peak:</b>		
12:00 pm – 3:00 pm & 5:00 pm – 10:00 pm (Mon-Fri)	\$0.1183 per kWh	\$0.1271 per kWh
<b>Off Peak:</b>		
10:00 pm – 12:00 pm & 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm (Mon-Fri) 24 hours Saturday and Sunday	\$0.0490 per kWh	\$0.0527 per kWh
<b>Combined Demand and Energy Charge (May-September)</b>		
First 750 kWh per month	\$0.1168 per kWh	\$0.1085 per kWh
Additional kWh per month	\$0.0797 per kWh	\$0.0850 per kWh
<b>COMMERCIAL:</b>		
<b>Rate Per Month:</b>		
Service Charge: Per meter per month: single phase	\$32.50	\$40.00
Three phase	\$42.50	\$50.00
<b>Energy Charge:</b>		
First 1,600 kWh per month	\$0.0982 per kWh	\$0.0853 per kWh
Additional kWh per month	\$0.0838 per kWh	\$0.0805 per kWh
<b>Demand Charge</b> per monthly peak kW:	N/A	\$0.50 per kW
<b>Irrigation - Annual Rate:</b>		
Facilities Charge - 3 phase (billed annually)	\$500.00	\$720.00
Facilities Charge - 1 phase (billed annually)	\$372.00	\$480.00
Demand Charge - annual billed over 5 months	\$10.10/BHP	\$12.15/BHP
First 400 kWh per billing horsepower	\$0.1196 per kWh	\$0.1196 per kWh
All additional kWh	\$0.1019 per kWh	\$0.1019 per kWh
<b>Irrigation Load control (discount applied to energy usage):</b>		
Option 1	6.0%	6.75%
Option 1A	9.0%	10.25%
Option 2	10.0%	11.25%
Option 2A	13.5%	15.25%
Option 3	3.5%	4.0%

# IRRIGATION INFORMATION

## 2024 Load Control

All irrigation wells that were in the 2023 load control will be in the 2024 program and on the same option unless we are notified. If you want to have well(s) in the 2024 load control program that were not in the 2023 load control program, please call our office and contract(s) will be sent to you. Please visit our website and/or check your mailer — the discounts per option have increased. February 28 is the deadline for all changes.



## Attention Irrigators

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

## Scholarship Applications Due Soon!

ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS: Have you finished your scholarship applications? The deadline to submit applications for the Basin Electric Power, Tri-State G&T, and HEA combined scholarship is February 14. The link to apply can be found at [www.hea.coop/scholarships](http://www.hea.coop/scholarships).



## New in 2024: Sign up for Text Alerts

Sign up to receive a text when your electric bill due date is approaching and on the day your bill is due. Call our office today to sign up for this new feature from Highline Electric.

# CONGRATS!

### THE FOLLOWING HIGHLINE EMPLOYEES OBSERVE AN EMPLOYMENT ANNIVERSARY IN FEBRUARY:

Bob Bradley .....	27 years
Dan Kafka .....	25 years
Deanna Deselms .....	21 years
Joanie Groshans.....	16 years
Derek Roberts.....	15 years
Seth Baker.....	8 years
Karson Harryman.....	7 years
Morgan Eurich.....	7 years
Sarah Dille .....	1 year

# YOU'RE INVITED!

## YOU ARE INVITED TO HIGHLINE ELECTRIC'S ANNUAL MEETING

Highline Electric Association's 2024 Annual Meeting is fast approaching.

The meeting will be Tuesday, March 26, 2024, in the Phillips County Event Center at the fairgrounds in Holyoke. Members will receive a direct mailing notice in March with the most up-to-date information regarding the meeting. You can also view a livestream of the meeting — details can be found on [www.hea.coop](http://www.hea.coop). We hope you'll join us to celebrate Highline Electric's 86th anniversary.



# REBATES

**Did you know Highline Electric offers rebates for outdoor power equipment, appliances, thermostats, and more?**

Low noise and low maintenance — it's a great time of year to make the switch to an electric snowblower!

For more information about Highline's rebate program and eligible products, visit [www.hea.coop/rebates](http://www.hea.coop/rebates).

# Your Highline Electric Bill Has a New Look!

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1300 S. Interocean  
Holyoke, CO 80734  
(800) 816-2236  
Like us on Facebook

**Account #:** 66868  
**Due Date:** 03/15/2023  
**Member:** John Doe  
**Description:** House  
**Legal Address:** 44-08-17-33

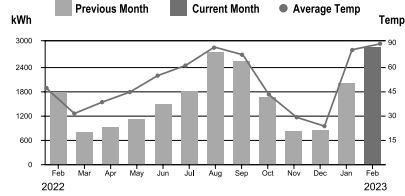
3

2

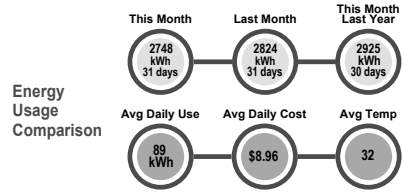
**BILLING DETAIL**  
 Previous Amount Due: \$223.22  
 Payment - Thank You: \$223.22CR  
**New Charges**  
 Service Charge: \$31.00  
 Demand kW 13.157 @ \$.000: \$00.00  
 Residential kWh 750 @ \$.1168: \$87.60  
 Residential kWh 1998 @ \$.0797: \$159.24  
 Electric Tax: \$2.78  
**Total Amount Due by Close of Business 03/15/23: \$280.62**  
 Amount Due if Paid After Close of Business 03/15/2023: \$284.83  
 Thank you.

Meter Number	REV Code	Reading Date		Meter Reading			BHP/ Mult	Usage kWh	Usage Days
		Previous	Present	Previous	Present	Demand			
034619796	001	12/31/22	01/31/23	059142	061890	13.157	1.00	2748	31

4



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**Important Customer Information**

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**Sign up today!** Avoid being late with your payment by signing up for one of our convenient automatic payment options. Call the office or visit [www.hea.coop](http://www.hea.coop) for more information or to sign up.

**Highline office hours are as follows:** Holyoke: 7:30 a.m.– 4:30 p.m. M-F, Sterling: 8 a.m.– 4:30 p.m. M-F Ovid: 9 a.m.–3 p.m. M,T,Th and on bill due dates.

HOLYOKE (970) 854-2236 • OVID (970) 463-5440 • STERLING (970) 522-2650



PO Box 57  
Holyoke, CO 80734

**PLEASE RETURN THIS PORTION WITH YOUR PAYMENT**  
 \*IMPORTANT: To avoid a penalty, payment must be received by close of business on the due date.

ACCT	DESC	DUE	PAID
66868	House	\$280.62	

JOHN DOE  
123 ANYTOWN RD  
HOLYOKE, CO 80734

HIGHLINE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION  
P.O. BOX 57  
HOLYOKE, CO 80734



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- Highline Electric's Contact Information** — easy access to your co-op's phone number, address, and website.
- Billing Detail** — shows your payment breakdown and account balance, your prior month's billing, payments posted to your account, new charges by rate, total amount due, and bill due date.
- Account Bill Description** — contains your account information, bill date, and service address.
- Meter Details** — contains details about your meter number, revenue code, service days and dates, meter readings, multiplier, and actual usage.
- Bar Graph** — shows monthly usage and temperature over the previous year per billing period for the past 12 months.
- Energy Usage Comparison** — shows your current month's usage, previous month's usage, and same month last year's usage. Also shows average daily use, cost, and temperature for the billing period.
- Messages** — important information related to your account and messages from Highline Electric.
- Payment Remittance Coupon** — this is what you include with your payment if you choose to mail it.