

HIGHLINE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

The Beacon

DECEMBER 2020



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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®

May Your Days (and Nights) be Merry and Bright

BY DENNIS HERMAN GENERAL MANAGER

After a few decades of use, 2020 was the year to replace the outdoor Christmas lights at the Herman household. I don't know if you've shopped for Christmas lights lately, but it isn't as simple of a choice as it once was. There are literally hundreds of options. The biggest decision at the outset is whether to go with incandescent or LED bulbs. A 25-foot strand of incandescent lights costs about \$5, while comparable LEDs are about \$25.

After some number crunching, I decided to take the leap and buy the more expensive LED lights. The reduced energy consumption of the LED lights results in a payback of the initially higher cost in about seven years. Since my last Christmas lights made it a couple of decades, I felt like seven years was a payback period I could live with.

You probably do not really care to hear about my Christmas light dilemma, so what's my point? My point is that investments in energy-efficient technology, whether it's a few bucks for Christmas lights or several thousand dollars for a new furnace or air conditioner, usually come at a higher up-front cost. When you consider the total lifetime ownership cost of the investment, it usually makes sense to pay that initial premium. You will more than recover the higher initial cost through energy savings realized over the life of the investment.

Now I know that's easier said than done. When the furnace dies, you're often wondering where you're going to find the money to replace it, much less where you could possibly scrounge up the



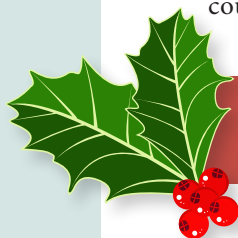
DENNIS HERMAN

additional funds necessary to purchase the more expensive, higher efficiency model. This is where Highline Electric Association can help.

Through Highline's implementation of the Rural Energy Savings Program (RESP), we can provide you with low-interest loans to improve energy efficiency throughout your home. Loan proceeds can be used to pay for labor and materials for projects such as improving insulation, caulking and weatherstripping windows and doors, LED lighting, qualifying replacement windows and doors, energy-efficient water heaters, heat pump systems or other heating or cooling systems that reduce energy consumption. You can utilize a RESP loan to acquire the latest energy-efficient technology that includes heat pump water heaters and cold climate air source heat pumps.

The maximum loan amount for a RESP loan is \$20,000 and loans are available at rates as low as 3% and for terms up to 10 years. In order to qualify, the project must show a reasonable payback (like my new Christmas lights) on the energy efficiency investment. The application is easy and the monthly loan payment will be combined with your monthly electric bill.

You can find more information on the RESP program on our website at www.hea.coop/RESP or by calling our Holyoke office at 970-854-2236 and asking to speak to Tad Huser.



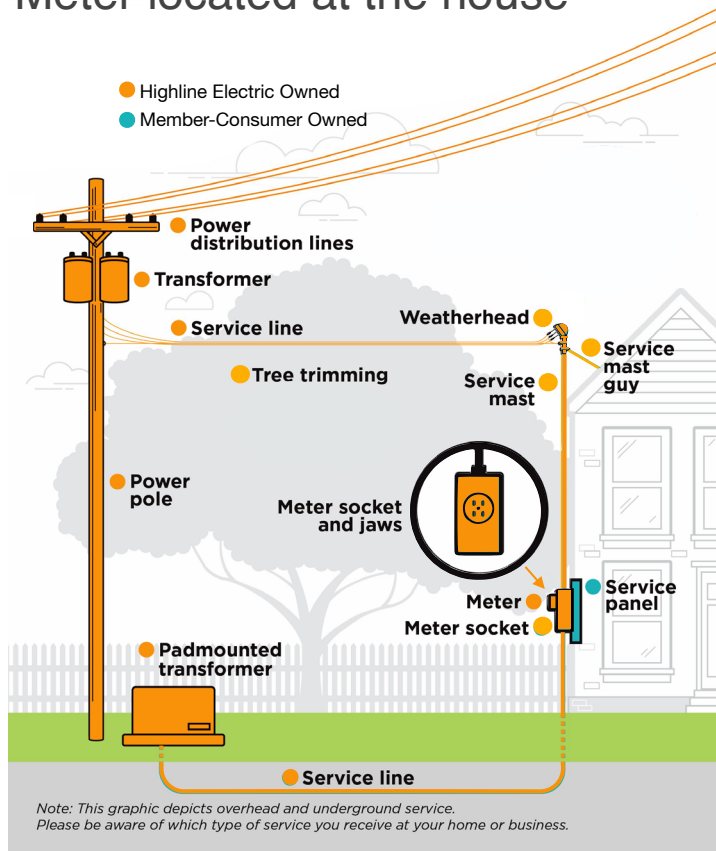
Offices will be closed **all day** on Christmas and New Year's Day, and at **3 p.m.** on New Year's Eve.

Who Owns What?

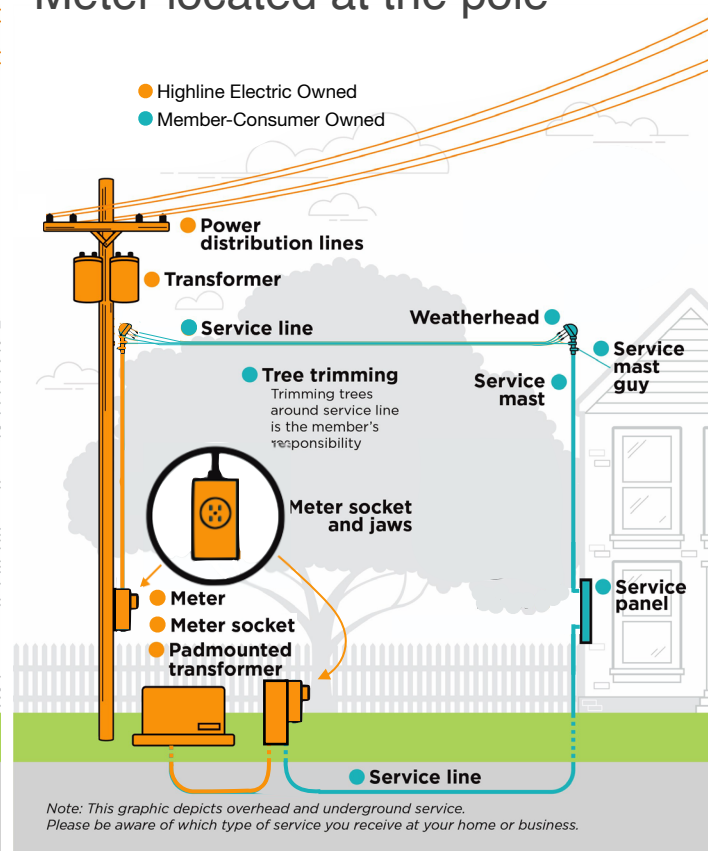
Highline Electric Owned Equipment vs. Consumer-Member Owned Equipment

The graphics below depict equipment owned by Highline Electric (in gold) and the member-consumer (in blue). If a storm damages any equipment owned by Highline, we are responsible for repairs. If a storm damages any member-consumer owned equipment, the member-consumer is responsible for repairs. Member-consumers should hire a licensed electrician when making any repairs to member-consumer owned equipment. The ownership of the equipment varies depending on where the meter is located at your property.

Meter located at the house



Meter located at the pole



LEAP Program Update

Colorado LEAP

The Low-income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP) is a federally-funded program that helps eligible hard-working Colorado families, seniors and individuals pay a portion of their winter home heating costs. The goal is to help bring warmth, comfort and safety to your home and family by assisting with heating costs. LEAP began accepting applications for the 2020-2021 season on November 1, 2020.

Please call 1-866-HEAT-HELP (1-866-432-8435) for more information.

Nebraska LIHEAP

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) helps low-income households stay safe and healthy by providing financial assistance to offset the costs of heating and cooling. LIHEAP particularly helps households that pay a high portion of household income for home

energy to meet immediate home energy needs. Heating season runs from October 1 to March 31.


A person may apply to receive assistance from LIHEAP by calling ACCESSNebraska at 1-800-383-4278 or filling out an application via the ACCESSNebraska website <https://dhhs-access-neb-menu.ne.gov/start/?tl=en>




ELECTRICAL SAFETY

Don't always believe what you hear

MYTH	VS	FACT
 <p>Electricity always takes the path of least resistance</p>		<p>Although the path of least resistance is the easiest to take, an electrical current can take any conductive path.</p>
 <p>Voltage has to be high to kill</p>		<p>Although voltage plays a role in how strong the current flows, exposure to the current itself is what's deadly. Even lower voltages can kill.</p>
 <p>Heavily insulated tools will always protect against shock and electrocution</p>		<p>Don't let a tool give you a false sense of security; take all precautions even if a tool is marketed as safe or insulated.</p>



57% of Americans say that smart home technology products save them an average of 30 minutes per day.



Information collected from National Council for Home Safety and Security

Fire It Up

Warm your bones from the heat of your fireplace but remember to close the damper when you're done. This will help keep the warm air from going up your chimney.



LEARN MORE AT 

Annual Meeting Election Information

An election will be held for four director positions on March 30, 2021 at the Highline Electric Association Annual Meeting. These positions require the nominee to be a member of Highline Electric and comply with Article III, Section 3 of the association's bylaws.

There will be one director position from District 1, and the nominee must reside in Logan, Weld, Washington or Morgan county, Colorado. The incumbent director for this district is Jim Lueck.

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 Mike Bennett.


There will be one director position from District 3, and the nominee must reside in Sedgwick County, Colorado, or Deuel County, Nebraska. The incumbent director for this district is David Kinnison.

There will be one director position from District 4, and the nominee must reside in Chase, Perkins or Dundey county, Nebraska. The incumbent director for this district is Merlin Prior.

Petitions to nominate a director are available at all Highline

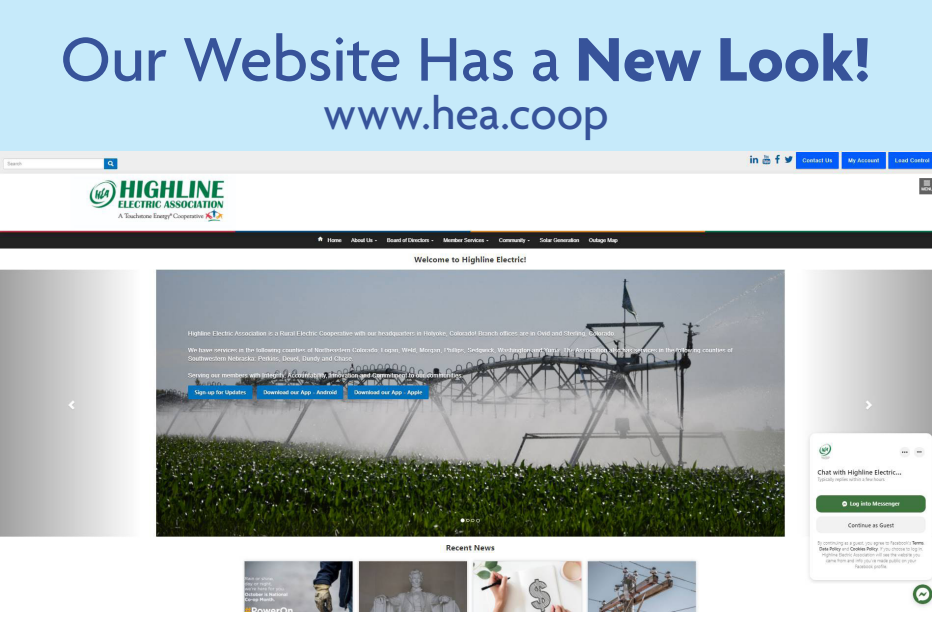
Electric offices. Anyone nominated for a board of directors' position must comply with the following rules:

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 it to Highline Electric.
5. All petitions must be received at Highline Electric Association, 1300 S. Interocean, Holyoke, CO 80734 or P.O. Box 57, Holyoke, CO 80734 on or prior to January 29, 2021.



December 2020
Energy Efficiency
Tip of the Month

Energy bills can increase during winter for a variety of reasons, such as house guests, more time spent at home, and shorter days and longer nights. Small actions, such as turning down your thermostat, replacing old bulbs with LEDs and washing clothes in cold water can help you save.



Our Website Has a New Look!
www.hea.coop

Highline Electric Association is a Rural Electric Cooperative with our headquarters in Holyoke, Colorado. Branch offices are in Cheyenne, Wyoming, and in the following counties of Northwestern Colorado: Logan, Weld, Morgan, Phillips, Sedgwick, Washington and Weld. The Marketing Department is in the northern portion of Southwestern Nebraska: Perkins, Deuel, Dawes and Chase.

Sign up for updates, Download our App - Android, Download our App - Apple

Recent News

Chat with Highline Electric...

Employee Anniversary

Congratulations to the following employee who observed an employment anniversary in December:
Matt Miller..... 7 years