

# HIGHLINE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

*The Beacon*

FEBRUARY 2022



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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®

## MY YEAR DRIVING AN EV

BY TAD HUSER, MANAGER OF MEMBER SERVICES

I've spent the last year commuting with my electric vehicle, and I want to give Highline Electric consumer-members an update on my ownership experience over the course of the extremes of Colorado's four seasons. After overcoming range anxiety during frigid, sub-freezing and windy commutes, I am very happy with my decision to own an EV. With exponentially more EV models available now with standard ranges of 200-plus miles, there is ample range for most of us for daily commutes, even while blasting your heat or air conditioning.

With more than 20,000 miles logged over the past year, I can confirm the cost of ownership is a huge benefit of owning an EV. My initial research using HEA's Choose EV website tools (more on that later) certainly proved out over the course of 2021. As gasoline prices crept past \$3 per gallon for most of the year, my fuel savings alone came out well ahead of my initial estimates of saving \$100 per month using \$2 per gallon at the time of purchase. Today, my fuel savings are closer to \$175 per month compared to my 25 miles per gallon gasoline car. Beyond the fuel savings, I also no longer have oil and filter changes, and brake maintenance intervals are reduced thanks to regenerative braking. These two things alone push the total cost of ownership even lower compared to internal combustion engine equivalents. Over the course of 14 months of ownership and driving, the only maintenance I had to perform was adding washer fluid. I do expect upcoming maintenance items, such as brake pads, new tires, perhaps even a new windshield, but I am thrilled to report it has been quite a maintenance-free year.

In the last year, dozens of companies have rolled out new EV models with new EV companies born out of the electrification of transportation. With the recent explosion of companies entering the EV space (i.e., the



Tad Huser charges his EV for a fraction of the cost of gasoline. This charger is at the HEA office.

Ford F-150 Lightning will ship any day now), there is an ever-increasing level of EV and plug-in hybrid (PHEV) options to choose from. To help HEA consumer-members navigate this evolution of transportation, we invested in Choose EV, a user-friendly guide to help HEA consumer-members research and educate themselves about EVs.

Please visit [hea.coop/choose-ev](http://hea.coop/choose-ev). You can find this link under our Member Services menu on the website. On HEA's Choose EV website, you can use a savings calculator to compare operating costs of any model of EV against any other vehicle. There is a handy commute savings calculator and a full catalog of current EV and PHEV models to research. Another valuable tool is an incentives finder that identifies which tax credits are available through your state and the IRS by make and model.

As you consider electrifying your vehicle, HEA is here to help answer your questions and identify any rebates and tax incentives available to you. Please allow HEA to serve as your trusted EV advisor, and when you are curious about making the transition, I encourage you to visit the Choose EV site, or simply call or email me and I will be happy to help get your questions answered. You can reach me at 970-854-2236 or by email at [thuser@hea.coop](mailto:thuser@hea.coop).

# You Are Invited to Highline Electric's Annual Meeting



Highline Electric Association's 2022 Annual Meeting is fast approaching. This year marks HEA's 84th anniversary.

If pandemic conditions allow, the meeting will be Tuesday, March 29, 2022, in the Phillips County Event Center at the fairgrounds in Holyoke. Alternate plans will be made if we are unable to gather in person. Consumer-members will receive a direct mailing notice in March with the most up-to-date information regarding the meeting.

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

This year, an election will be held for four board director positions. These positions require each nominee to be a consumer-member of HEA and comply with Article III, Section 3 of the association's bylaws.

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

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 Steve Oestman.

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 Ted Carter.

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

Petitions to nominate a director were due on January 28 and the nomination period is now closed. Watch for more information about the annual meeting and director elections here in *Colorado Country Life* magazine and in direct mailings from HEA.

**ATTENTION IRRIGATORS**

**April 15 is the deadline for retiring an irrigation service to avoid paying the annual minimum.**



*Thinking about Energy Efficiency improvements?*

## Save energy. Save dollars.

Investing in energy efficiency improvements in your home or office can save energy, and thus lower your utility bills. It's a win-win!

To help you invest in energy efficiency projects, Highline Electric Association now offers an On-bill Financing Program. Apply for a low-interest loan to finance your energy efficiency projects. Repay that loan monthly over time on your HEA electric bill.

Visit [www.hea.coop](http://www.hea.coop) or call 800.816.2236 to learn more!



## Final Call for Scholarship Applications

**ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS:** Have you finished your scholarship applications? The deadline for Basin Electric Power Cooperative, Tri-State Generation and Transmission and Highline Electric combined scholarships is fast approaching.

Applications must be at HEA's Holyoke office by noon on February 15. Don't miss this great opportunity for a chance to get money for college. Scholarship applications can be found at [hea.coop](http://hea.coop).

# 2022 Rebate Product Guide

- Eligible rebates must be submitted within **90 days** of purchase.
- Rebate amounts under \$25 will be issued as a credit on the Highline account. Rebate requests must include itemized payment receipts (including product model number) and ENERGY STAR® verification documentation.

Product	Eligible Rebate
Electric Outdoor Power Equipment	25% of cost up to \$150 for electric snow blower, walk-behind mower or bicycles. 25% of cost up to \$50 for electric leaf blower, pruner, trimmer and power washer. 25% of the cost up to \$100 for electric chainsaws. \$25% of cost up to \$1,000 for electric riding mowers. 50% of cost up to \$25 for additional batteries purchased with or for qualifying equipment can be included with original purchase rebate application. Maximum yearly outdoor equipment rebate of \$300 per account, except riding lawn mowers (stand-alone \$1,000 cap per member account).
ENERGY STAR® LED Bulbs (500 lumens or greater)	50% of lamp/bulb cost up to \$8 per lamp/bulb. Yearly cap of 50 lamps/bulbs per account.
ENERGY STAR® Refrigerator/Freezer (min 7.75 cu ft.)	\$60 per unit. Additional \$120 if old unit is recycled. Proof is required to receive the recycling credit a form can be downloaded at <a href="http://hea.coop">hea.coop</a> or available upon request. Freezer/refrigerator rebates are limited to a max of two recycles per member, per year.
Induction Cooktops/Ranges (measuring 30" or larger)	\$100 per unit for electric-to-induction. \$350 per unit for gas-to-induction or new construction. Replacement of gas units with induction require verification of gas cooktop/range.
ENERGY STAR® Clothes Washer	\$80 per unit front load. \$60 per unit top load.
ENERGY STAR® Dryer	\$60 per unit. \$180 heat pump unit.
Ground Source Heat Pump System	\$850 per ton for new installation. \$425 per ton for existing unit replacements. Minimum 3/4 ton. ENERGY STAR® rated. \$100 per unit for ground source heat pump powered water heaters (a.k.a. desuperheater).
Air Source Heat Pump System (AHRI Certificates required.)	<b>Tier 1</b> , greater than or equal to 15 SEER, HSPF greater than or equal to 9.0. Less than or equal to 2 tons \$675, greater than 2 tons \$1800. <b>Tier 2 (cold climate)</b> , greater than or equal to 16 SEER, HSPF greater than or equal to 10.0. Variable speed 3 stage minimum. Less than or equal to 2 tons \$1000, greater than 2 tons \$2400.
Whole House Fans	\$100 per unit. Replacement or new installations qualify.
Smart Thermostats	\$50 per unit. Must be WiFi and have learning capabilities. Limit 2 smart thermostats per member account.
Electric Water Heater	\$50 per unit for new construction. \$100 per unit for gas conversion. \$375 per unit for ENERGY STAR® heat pump water heater. 30 gallon minimum.
Electric Commercial, Industrial and Irrigation Motors (10-1500 hp)	\$10/HP up to 500HP and \$8/HP for motors above 500HP. \$1.50/HP wiring assistance if motor replaces fossil fuel or is a new install. Contact HEA for form.
Variable Speed Drive (VSD)	Contact HEA for details. Soft start kits added to existing motors are not eligible.
Irrigation & Industrial/Agricultural Auditing	Contact HEA for details.
EV Level 2 Charging Station	50% up to \$500 <b>without</b> network capability or \$1,000 <b>with</b> network capability.
DC Fast Charger	50% up to \$3,000 for 50kW peak output or \$5,000 for 100 kW & above peak output.
<b>Commercial Lighting</b>	
Pole Mounted LED Lighting	25% of total LED head cost. Project cap of \$20,000.
Commercial Lighting New / Retrofit	Contact HEA for details. One project per member account per year. Project cap of \$20,000.



## LOAD CONTROL

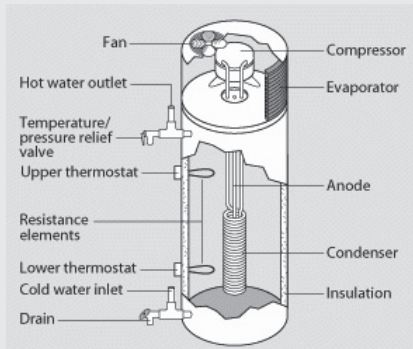
Letters about our 2022 load control program were mailed out in December. All irrigation wells that were in the 2021 load control program last year will be in the 2022 program and on the same option unless we are notified.

If you want to have a well(s) in the 2022 load control program that was not in the 2021 load control program, please call our office and a contract(s) will be sent to you. The deadline for all changes is February 28, 2022.

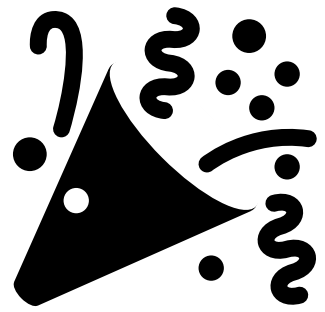
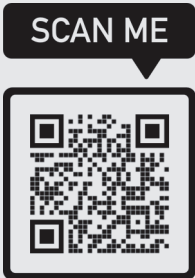
## Need a New Water Heater?

Are you looking to replace your water heater? Are you interested in saving real money on your electric bill? The newest heat pump hybrid water heaters use as little as 25% of the energy of a standard electric water heater. Plus, Highline Electric Association consumer-members may be eligible to receive a \$375 rebate (restrictions apply; see rebate details on our website at [hea.coop/energy-rebate-information](http://hea.coop/energy-rebate-information)).

Here is what a heat pump water heater looks like and information on how they work:



Watch a great video comparison of traditional electric water heaters to heat pump hybrid water heaters :



**Congratulations to the following Highline Electric Association employees who observe an employment anniversary in February:**

Tom Kropp	33	Derek Roberts	13
Bob Bradley	25	Seth Baker	6
Dan Kafka	23	Karson Harryman	5
Deanna Deselms	19	Morgan Eurich	5
Joanie Groshans	14		



## February 2022 Energy Efficiency

### Tip of the Month

About 30% of a home's heating energy is lost through inefficient windows. Caulk and weather strip windows to seal air leaks. When running your home heating system, lock all operable windows to ensure the tightest seal possible.

*Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy*



## Cars, Power Lines and a Plan of Action

Ice, heavy snow and accidents can bring down power lines. If you get in a car accident involving power lines and your car is on fire or you see smoke, make a solid, clean jump from your vehicle and hop away with your feet together as far away as you can. If you run or walk away, you could get electrocuted.