

HIGHLINE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

The Beacon

JANUARY 2022



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Holyoke, CO 80734-0057



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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®

IT'S A MATTER OF (CO-OP!) PRINCIPLES

BY DENNIS HERMAN GENERAL MANAGER



DENNIS HERMAN

When it rains it pours! I wish I was literally talking about rain — that would be a welcome discussion. But we'll have to leave that for another day. I'm referring to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and what seems like the endless stream of economic impacts that have resulted. It feels like we have run the economic gauntlet — shutdowns, stimulus, labor shortages, recovery, supply chain bottlenecks and, ultimately, inflation.

While the pandemic has taken a toll on all of us, I believe an argument can be made that we have managed to avoid the worst of the pandemic's effects in rural Nebraska and Colorado. There's no doubt the pandemic has hit certain sectors of our rural economies hard — restaurants and hospitality come to mind — but such a large percentage of our local economies are engaged in critical activities (food supply, energy, health care and other human services) that we have been somewhat insulated when compared to the impacts seen by our urban neighbors. We haven't been subject to shutdowns and mandates that are as rigid as those in more populated areas.

While our rural economies have been insulated from most of the pandemic-induced phenomenon so far, inflation will present challenges that will be difficult for us to avoid. There is no doubt that inflation is top of mind for those in charge of monetary and fiscal policy. At the time I'm writing this, members of Congress are in the final stages of negotiating the multi-trillion dollar "Build Back Better" stimulus bill. This legislation is in addition to the

trillion dollar-plus infrastructure bill that is on a parallel path. My concern is that this proposed legislation could add fuel to a fire that is already burning. Monetary policymakers are beginning to discuss a "tapering" of money supply at the same time congressional fiscal policymakers are discussing vast amounts of spending.

Inflationary pressures are already evident in our service territory. Energy prices are no exception — gasoline prices are high and warnings are being sounded for expected higher heating costs this winter. Much of the concern is due to projected shortages of natural gas in a market that has already seen inflationary pressure.

My goal is not to push you to the edge of depression, but rather to share some good news with you: Highline Electric Association will not be raising rates in 2022. While we are budgeting for a negative operating margin for the year, our budget calls for the recognition of deferred revenue (revenue that has been set aside in past years with adequate margins) to offset the negative margins anticipated next year. While the planned use of deferred revenue usually changes annually when our books are closed, our current budget calls for the use of \$1 million of deferred revenue in 2021, which will leave \$900,000 in our deferred revenue reserve. Highline established our deferred revenue plan to help our membership through tough times. Hopefully it will ease the sting of inflation to our members as we begin 2022.

You Are Invited to Highline Electric's Annual Meeting



Highline Electric Association's 2022 annual meeting is fast approaching. This will be Highline Electric's 85th 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. Members will receive a direct mailing notice in March with the most up-to-date information regarding the meeting.

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

An election will be held for four 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 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 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 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 Electric 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 28, 2022.

Statement of Nondiscrimination

Highline Electric Association is the recipient of federal financial assistance from the Rural Utilities Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In accordance with federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.)

The person responsible for coordinating this organization's nondiscrimination compliance efforts is Dennis Herman, manager of Highline Electric Association. To file a complaint of discrimination, write U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication and Compliance, 1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call 202-260-1026 or 800-795-3272. The U.S. Department of Agriculture is an Equal Opportunity provider, employer and lender.

Highline Offers Scholarship Opportunities



Highline Electric, Tri-State Generation and Transmission, and Basin Electric Power Cooperative work together to provide 13 scholarships to graduating seniors in our service area. The scholarships range from \$500 to \$1,000. In 2018, Highline's board of directors voted to convert two of Highline's \$1,000 scholarships into renewable scholarships that can be redeemed by the recipient for up to four years if they maintain eligibility criteria.

Please visit our website, hea.coop, for applications. The application deadline is at 12 p.m. on February 15, 2022.

Let Us Know about Life Support

If you have anyone on life support systems at your residence, please notify Highline. The co-op will try to notify all consumer-members on life support systems of any planned outages.

Highline will not terminate a service if a licensed physician makes a certification in writing of a medical emergency. This continuance of service will be effective for 60 days from the date of said medical certification. One 30-day extension may be granted if a second medical certification is received prior to the expiration of the initial continuance period. These provisions may be used only once during any period of 12 consecutive months.



ATTENTION IRRIGATORS

Irrigators are reminded that if they are late paying an irrigation account two times during the irrigation season, a deposit will be required before the well will be energized the next season. If a deposit is required and irrigators are late paying one time in the current year, a deposit will be required the following year.



2022 LOAD CONTROL PROGRAM



Letters were mailed out in December about our 2022 load control program. All irrigation wells that were in the 2021 load control program 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 were not in the 2021 load control program, please call our office and a contract(s) will be sent to you.

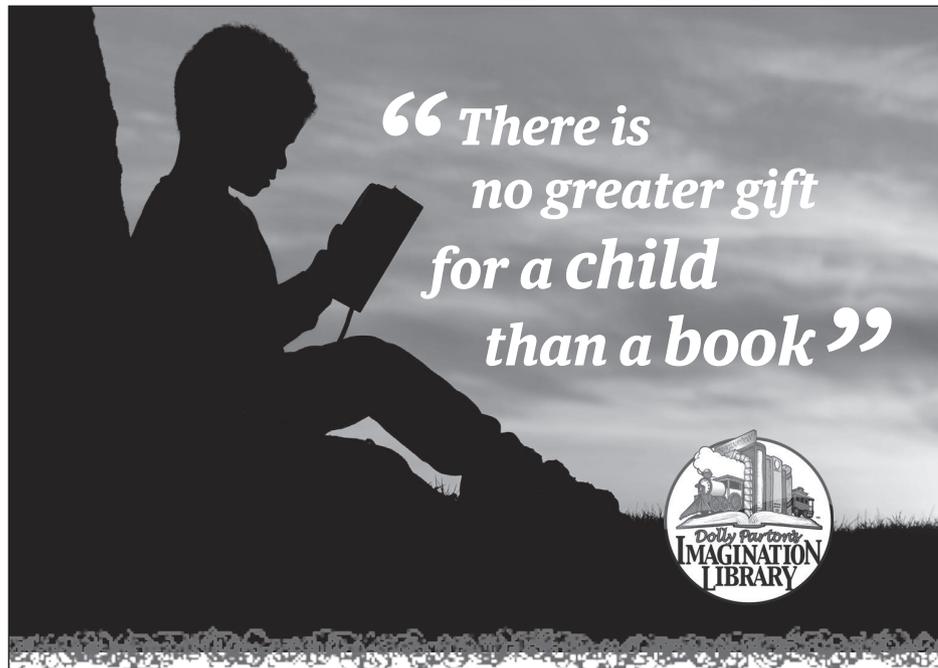
The deadline for all changes is February 28, 2022.

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 hea.coop 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.)	Tier 1 , 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. Tier 2 (cold climate) , 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 without network capability or \$1,000 with network capability.
DC Fast Charger	50% up to \$3,000 for 50kW peak output or \$5,000 for 100 kW & above peak output.
Commercial Lighting	
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.





“There is no greater gift for a child than a book”



There is no greater gift for a child than the gift of learning from their own books. That's why Highline Electric Association, your Touchstone Energy Cooperative, is excited to help promote Dolly Parton's Imagination Library to residents of Chase, Deuel, Phillips and Sedgwick Counties and to our youngest co-op members.

The Imagination Library, a book-gifting program administered by the Dollywood Foundation, mails one book each month to children from birth to age five at no cost to the families who register.

At Highline Electric, we believe every child should have the opportunity to succeed and can think of no better start than ensuring the children in our community grow up in homes filled with books that inspire a passion for reading and lifelong learning.

For more details and to learn how to register for the program, please contact your local program administrator:

- Chase County: Beth or Linda, 308.882.4754, youbelong@imperiallibrary.org
- Deuel County: Vicki Fornander, 308.874.2561, vickifornander@gmail.com
- Phillips County: Linda Jelden, 970.580.4101, pcfamiyed@yahoo.com
- Sedgwick County: Alan Harris, 970.580.3855, alanharris78@yahoo.com



Give Us A Call For Urgent Matters

While Highline Electric encourages members to communicate by means convenient for them (i.e., email, Facebook, Twitter, etc.), if there's an urgent matter, we encourage you to call. During business hours you can call and talk to one of our employees. If you are calling after normal business hours, your call will be transferred to dispatch. There are times during large outages when those lines can get flooded with calls and it can be difficult to get through. When this happens, we call in additional personnel to handle the overflow and our social media will become more active.

Cautious Care for Your Generator

Unsafe operation of a backup generator can threaten you, your family, neighbors and the lineworkers working to restore power. Unsafe installation or operation may also result in a lawsuit and your insurance may not cover your liability.

Bylaw Changes

The Highline Electric Association Board of Directors will consider amendments to the bylaws of the Association at the February 17, 2022, meeting of the Board of Directors. The amendments will modernize the bylaws and bring them into compliance with the Cooperative Governance bill (HB21-1131) enacted by the Colorado legislature this year and include:

- Language allowing electronic participation by directors at regular and special board meetings of the board of directors when authorized by the board
- Clarification on who may hold a joint membership in the association
- Replacement of gender-specific language with gender-neutral language throughout the by-laws
- An extension of the deadline to submit a nomination petition for a director election from 45 days to 60 days prior to the election
- Language allowing members to cast votes electronically in any member election authorized by the board of directors.

You may review the recommended changes on Highline's website at hea.coop; or if you prefer, you can obtain a hard copy of the recommended changes at Highline's offices in Holyoke, Sterling or Ovid.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING EMPLOYEES WHO OBSERVE AN EMPLOYMENT ANNIVERSARY IN JANUARY:

Jeff Pocock	30
JT Baker	25
Kris Camblin	24
Barb Holtzman	23
Melissa Nelson	19
Jessie Heath	7
Elise Pocock	7
Mendi Lutze	6

