

HIGHLINE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

The Beacon

DECEMBER 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.

HEA Office Hours
Holyoke & Sterling:
M-Th 7 a.m.–5:30 p.m.
Ovid: Mon., Tues., Thurs. 9–3

HIGHLINE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION
IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY
PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER



Touchstone Energy®

ELECTRICITY PROVIDES POWERFUL VALUE

BY DENNIS HERMAN GENERAL MANAGER



DENNIS HERMAN

The inflation we've all experienced over the past year-plus seems to have impacted every aspect of our lives. A medium latte is \$6. It's impossible to grab lunch at your favorite fast food restaurant for less than \$10. A monthly subscription to Netflix is \$20.

As we all look for ways to save money during this time, I began to think about the value some of these routine purchases provide. A latte and meal out every day of the workweek will total around \$80 per week, or about \$320 each month. And what was the real value — short-term satisfaction and a larger waistline? Just the latte alone is about \$120 a month. This got me thinking — is this the best value for my money?

The average daily cost of electricity for a residential customer on Highline Electric Association's system is about \$5.20, and the average monthly electric bill for residential members of Highline is \$155. You could power your entire home every day for the price of a medium latte. I could brew my own coffee, cook my own meals, binge a series, and run on a treadmill for less than

the cost of that drink. Now to me, that's real value.

Electricity provides benefits we often take for granted. It goes well beyond short-term satisfaction by allowing us to charge devices and have cold food and hot water, all in a comfortable indoor climate. Besides the privilege it affords, electricity has also remained relatively cost-stable even amidst rising inflation.

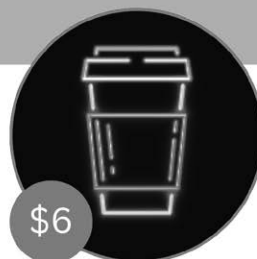
As a member-owned cooperative, Highline does everything in our power to ensure your costs stay reasonable and that electricity remains a great value for our members. It's not always easy, as there are several factors beyond inflation that impact the price of electricity — some within our control, but most beyond it.

The cost of electricity can fluctuate due to supply and demand, infrastructure investment and maintenance, and operational expenses. Weather patterns also contribute, affecting both demand and generation capabilities — extreme conditions lead to heightened energy use or

Where Do You Find Value?

Did you know the average daily cost of electricity is \$5.20, or about \$155 per month?

Electricity fuels our daily life essentials, from heating/cooling equipment to entertainment devices and appliances. Think of how vital power is compared to other everyday purchases. **That's real value.**



Morning To-Go Latte



Fast-Food Combo Lunch



All-Day Power

Sources: Energy Information Administration, MoneyGeek and CNET

disruptions. Government policies, such as subsidies for renewable energy or taxes and regulations on emissions, shape electricity costs as well. Highline considers all these aspects when adjusting rates; because we're a cooperative, we consider the impact of those costs on our members as well.

As our community continues to rely on electricity for nearly everything in our homes, schools, hospitals, and businesses, we need it to be reliable and affordable. You can be assured: Highline always puts you top of mind and works each day to ensure electricity remains the best value for your money.



Board of Directors Election Information

An election will be held for four director positions on March 25, 2025 at Highline Electric Association's 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 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 Lisa Schilke.

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 24, 2025.

Happy Retirement, Nick Saylor!



Nick Saylor retired after serving HEA members as a lineman for 34 years. Nick's last day was September 30.

We at Highline Electric Association wish him the best in his retirement.

Join HEA at the Parade of Lights

The Holyoke Parade of Lights is December 2 and the Sedgwick County Parade December 5.

There is no better way to kick off the holiday season and we hope to see you there!

ATTENTION STUDENTS: Apply for a Trip of a Lifetime

Each year, Highline Electric Association sponsors all-expenses-paid trips for two students to attend the Washington D.C. Youth Tour and two students to attend Youth Leadership Camp near Steamboat Springs. To be a lucky winner of one of these two awesome experiences, please complete the application submission on our website. The top two applicants will go to Washington, D.C. Your application must be received by December 15. Visit www.hea.coop/youth to apply.



HEA Load Control Program

In late December, landowners will receive a notice in the mail regarding Highline Electric Association's load control program detailing those wells currently enrolled in load control, as well as any eligible wells. Irrigation accounts enrolled will receive a discount on the energy portion (kilowatt-hour usage) of their bill depending on which load control option is selected. Please note that wells that are enrolled in this program, regardless of which option is chosen, will never be controlled on consecutive days.

If you and your landowners want to remain enrolled in the same load control option(s) in 2025 that you had in 2024, your landowners do not need to do anything. Irrigation wells that were enrolled in 2024 will be carried over into the 2025 program on the same option unless we are notified by February 28, 2025.

Please call Highline Electric at 970-854-2236, toll-free at 800-816-2236, or email us at info@hea.coop.



Energy Bill Assistance Programs

Nebraska LIHEAP — Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program — 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 Nebraska resident can apply to receive assistance from LIHEAP by calling 1-800-383-4278 or by filling out an application on the website at iserve.nebraska.gov

Colorado LEAP — Low-income Energy Assistance Program — 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 is accepting applications for the 2024/2025 season.

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

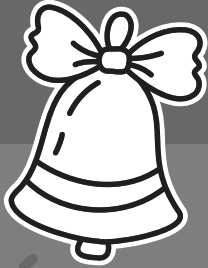
Office Closures

- December 24 and 25
- December 31 at 4 p.m.
- January 1, 2025

Happy Holidays!

HOLIDAY FUN WORD SEARCH

Can you find all the words associated with holiday fun in the puzzle below? Use the word bank to check your work.



WORD BANK

Jingle bells Santa Claus Snowman
Candy cane Mittens Hot Chocolate



N	H	C	H	P	B	D	H	S	V	G	Z	H	T	M
A	C	C	F	Z	Z	A	T	F	N	V	D	Q	Z	Y
M	H	L	V	Y	M	J	N	P	D	E	T	V	F	S
W	P	W	H	F	W	I	H	K	S	C	T	G	B	K
O	Z	K	D	Z	L	N	O	K	K	H	Q	T	C	F
N	F	I	O	U	R	G	T	F	C	L	P	E	I	L
S	S	V	S	U	A	L	C	A	T	N	A	S	C	M
Z	C	V	P	C	E	E	H	R	P	W	U	A	Z	Z
F	C	F	J	C	H	B	O	G	C	Y	N	G	V	E
G	M	V	X	D	L	E	C	V	N	D	T	S	F	W
Y	A	X	V	N	U	L	O	H	Y	V	C	L	U	A
H	G	V	L	L	X	L	L	C	M	J	M	C	I	U
P	J	Y	F	E	R	S	A	Q	E	Y	G	H	C	A
D	W	O	R	D	T	N	T	Y	H	X	Q	L	E	S
U	W	H	R	U	E	V	E	B	Y	B	F	L	W	R



**HAPPY HOLIDAYS
FROM THE ENERGY
EXPLORERS!**