

Balancing Electricity Supply and Demand

By **Dennis Herman** General Manager

While electricity is essential for nearly every aspect of daily life, we rarely consider how it's produced and delivered to our homes. You might be surprised to learn that behind the scenes, a network of experts is working by the minute to anticipate how much electricity you need before you even use it.

We're all connected to the electric grid, so ensuring the right amount of electricity for all involves a complex process of forecasting energy demand, planning for capacity, and securing enough supply to meet Americans' needs.

POWERFUL SOURCES

At Highline Electric Association, we work closely with Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, our local wholesale power partner, to secure enough electricity for our communities, using a diverse mix of energy sources to generate the power we deliver to your home or business. By maintaining a diverse energy mix — coal, natural gas, solar, wind, and hydropower — Highline has options to ensure reliable power at a competitive cost.

On a larger scale, across the country, electricity supply and demand are managed through a market that includes long-term planning agreements, where electricity is bought and sold just like other common



goods and services. Because Highline works with Tri-State, which is also a cooperative, we are able to pool resources and expertise to deliver reliable and affordable power to our members.

Electricity supply changes because demand fluctuates based on members' needs. For example, Highline's system requires more electricity in the summer during irrigation season. Demand can

increase when weather patterns change, such as during extremely warm or cold temperatures.


MANAGING SUPPLY AND DEMAND ACROSS THE GRID

Across the country, other electric utilities are managing the same task of balancing supply and demand, which is why we have a larger network of key players in place to ensure enough power is delivered across the grid.

In most cases, the amount of electricity generated and how much is sent to specific areas are coordinated and monitored by regional transmission organizations (RTOs) and independent system operators (ISOs).

RTOs, ISOs, and electric utilities act as air traffic controllers for the electric grid. They forecast when you, your neighbors, and communities across large regions will need more power, and take steps to



Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

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.

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YOUR CO-OP NEWS

ensure there is enough supply to meet demand.

LOOKING AHEAD

As the energy sector undergoes rapid change, it's important for all consumers to understand the basics of electricity supply and demand.

Electricity use in the U.S. is expected to rise to record highs this year and next, with the demand for electricity expected to at least double by 2050. At the same time, energy policies are pushing the early retirement of always-available generation sources, which will undoubtedly compromise reliable electricity.

Highline and Tri-State remain committed to providing affordable, reliable energy to the members we serve. That's why we constantly prepare for increased demand and other challenges that could compromise our local electric supply.

Managing the balancing act of electrical supply and demand is a complex job, and through our membership with Tri-State we have a network of utilities, power plant operators, and energy managers in place to direct the electricity we need and keep the electric grid balanced.

EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to the following HEA employees who observe an employment anniversary in January:

- Jeff Pocock — 33 years
- JT Baker — 28 years
- Kris Camblin — 27 years
- Melissa Nelson — 22 years
- Jessie Heath — 10 years
- Elise Pocock — 10 years
- Mendi Lutze — 9 years

IRRIGATION ACCOUNT DEPOSITS

Irrigators: If you 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 you are late paying one time in the current year, a deposit will be required the following year.

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, 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.

APPLY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS BY FEBRUARY 1

Highline Electric Association, Tri-State Generation and Transmission, and Basin Electric Power Cooperative work together to provide 13 scholarships to graduating seniors in our service area across northeastern Colorado. The scholarships range from \$500 to \$1,000. Two of Highline's \$1,000 scholarships are renewable for up to four years if recipients maintain eligibility criteria. Please visit our website at www.hea.coop to apply for a scholarship. All applications must be submitted by the end of the day on February 1.

NOTIFY HEA ABOUT LIFE SUPPORT

If you have anyone on life-support systems at your residence, please notify Highline Electric. The co-op will try to notify all 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 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.

2025 Rebate Product Guide

- Eligible rebates must be submitted within **90 days** of product purchase date or delivery/installation date.
- Rebate amounts under \$50 will be issued as a credit on the Highline account. All rebate requests must include itemized payment receipts (including product model number) and ENERGY STAR® verification documentation where stated.

Product	Eligible Rebate	*effective 1/1/2025
Electric Outdoor Power Equipment	25% of cost up to: \$150 for walk-behind mower, bicycles or electric snow blowers, up to \$250 for 2-stage electric snow blower, up to \$50 for electric leaf blower, pruner, trimmer and power washer, up to \$100 for electric chainsaws and up to \$1,000 for electric riding mowers. 50% of cost up to \$25 for additional batteries purchased with or for qualifying equipment must 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). One rebate per product type per year, excluding bicycles.	
Refrigerator/Freezer Recycling (7.75 cu ft. or greater)	\$120 per unit. Proof of retailer haul away and/or itemized invoice is required to receive recycling credit. Limit 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® Dryer	\$60 per unit. \$180 heat pump unit.	
Electric Water Heater (Tankless not eligible.)	\$50 per unit for new construction. \$100 per unit for natural gas/propane conversion or Demand Response (DR) capable water heaters. \$375 per unit for ENERGY STAR® heat pump water heater. 30 gallon minimum.	
Smart Thermostats	\$50 per unit. Must be EnergyStar, WiFi and have learning capabilities. Limit 2 smart thermostats per member account.	
Ductless Air-Source Heat Pump (AHRI Certificates required.)	EnergyStar version 6.1 and/or – 7.8 HSPF2. \$500 for systems equal to or, less than 1.5 tons (18,000 BTUs). \$1,500 for systems greater than 1.5 tons (18,000 BTUs). Rebate cannot exceed 50% of equipment cost.	
Ducted Air-Source Heat Pump (AHRI Certificates required.)	EnergyStar version 6.1 and/or– 7.8 HSPF2. \$500 for systems equal to or, less than 1.5 tons or 18,000 BTUs. \$1,500 for systems greater than 1.5 tons or 18,000 BTUs. \$500 bonus for dual-fuel; heat pump combined with propane. Heat pump required to provide at least 50% of heated area down to 17 degrees Fahrenheit.	
Ground Source Heat Pump System	\$850 per ton for new installation. \$425 per ton for existing unit replacements. ENERGY STAR® rated. \$100 per unit for ground source heat pump powered water heaters (a.k.a. desuperheater).	
Air-to-Water Heat Pump	\$500 per ton.	
Evaporative Cooler	\$200 per unit. Minimum 2500 CFM, no window or portable units.	
Whole House Fans	\$100 per unit. Replacement or new installations qualify.	
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 or go online.	
Variable Speed Drive (VSD)	Contact HEA for details. Soft start kits added to existing motors are not eligible.	
Irrigation & Industrial/Agricultural Auditing	Irrigation: 75%-100% up to \$1,500. Industrial/Agricultural: Contact HEA for details.	
Energy Assessments	<p>Small businesses -100% of assessment cost (if you apply for funding through REAP). Assessments qualify businesses for USDA's Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) grant application funding. Free grant application support for REAP applications.</p> <p>Large commercial and industrial building - 75%-100% of assessment cost up to \$25,000</p> <p>Oil and Gas Assessments – Free to member, overall program cap of \$500k</p>	
EV Level 2 Charging Station	50% up to \$250 non-managed or \$1,000 for member system managed chargers. Rebate total is split 50:50 between equipment and installation costs. Installation photos required.	
DC Fast Charger	50% up to \$3,000 for 50-75kW peak output or \$5,000 for 76-149kW & \$7,500 for 150kW+.	
Commercial Lighting (all commercial fixtures must be DLC listed)		
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.	

You Are Invited to Highline Electric's Annual Meeting

Highline Electric Association's 2025 Annual Meeting is fast approaching. This will be Highline Electric's 87th anniversary.

The meeting will be March 25 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. This meeting will also be live-streamed, details will be posted on www.hea.coop.

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 on March 25 at the 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:

- The person nominated must comply with Article III, Section 3 of the bylaws, a copy of which may be obtained from any Highline office.
- 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.
- Only members of Highline may sign said petition. If the membership is in joint tenancy, only one tenant may sign.
- 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.
- All petitions must be received at Highline Electric Association, 1300 S. Interoccean, Holyoke, CO 80734 or P.O. Box 57, Holyoke, CO 80734 on or prior to January 24, 2025.

IRRIGATORS: CHECK YOUR OPTIONS FOR 2025

Letters were mailed in December about Highline Electric Association's 2025 Load Control Program. All irrigation wells that were in the Load Control Program last year will also be in the 2025 program and on the same option unless you notify HEA of any changes. If you want to have well(s) in the 2025 Load Control Program that were not in the 2024 Load Control Program, call our office and contract(s) will be sent to you. Visit us online at www.hea.coop or check your mailer for information; and please note that discounts per option have increased. The deadline for all Load Control Program additions, changes, or removals is February 28.

