



PRECorp News

NOVEMBER 2024

Basin Electric sets 6.5% increase in cost of power

Residential members to expect an increase of \$6 to \$8 per month

PRECorp’s wholesale power supplier Basin Electric will implement a 6.5% increase in the cost of the power it sells to PRECorp beginning in 2025.

This amounts to an increase of \$4 per megawatt hour (MWh) of power PRECorp purchases from Basin. Annually, PRECorp purchases approximately 2 million MWh of electricity from Basin. PRECorp residential members using an average of 1,200 kilowatt hours (kWh) per month will see an average increase of \$6 to \$8 on their monthly bill starting in January 2025.

The www.precorp.coop website has Rate Increase resources such as rate calculators and a deeper dive into the Basin Rate Increase.

The increase is tied to Basin’s long-term efforts to increase its electric generation and distribution resources amid rising demand for power in the central and western United States.

“Basin is responding to pressure to meet demand for power from growing industrial and residential areas in its service territory,” said PRECorp CEO Brian Mills. “Pair that with forecasted decreases in market-priced

sales to non-Basin members, and regulatory pressure to close down its coal generation fleet. Basin is working proactively to add alternative generation and distribution systems so they do not have to purchase power on a competitive open market.”

Mills said the long-term benefits to Basin’s members are rate stability as the wholesale power supplier works to control its own generation and pricing structure. Basin’s generation mix includes coal, natural gas, wind, and solar. While coal generation has remained relatively stable, the demand for more electricity from Basin’s industrial members and data computing centers has increased dramatically since the beginning of this decade.

Basin, an electric generation and transmission cooperative, is not owned by shareholders. Instead, Basin’s member cooperatives hold a financial stake in the company. Members invest through rates and, over time, receive capital credit returns or dividends on those investments.

“The cooperative model of capital credits and the financial strategy of deferred revenue has enabled Basin

Continued on page 6.



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In This Issue

CEO Straight Talk
Taco Booth raises funds for Veterans

Winter and Holiday safety reminders
Foundation update



BRIAN MILLS,
CEO

We have all been propositioned with this age old “need-to-tell-you-a-couple-things” question. Do you want the good news first or the not-so-good news first?

Anyone who has heard that question can be tempted to take the good news first, but most people opt for the not-so-good news. The latter option is often taken because one may

desire to accept the challenge and then absorb the better news as encouragement or a happy ending like you see in the movies. We are going to go with that approach this month.

For much of 2024, we have been sharing the news about the wholesale power rate increase from Basin Electric, from whom we purchase power on your behalf to then distribute to your homes and businesses. The final numbers are in and PRECorp has filed its 2025 Cost of Power Adjustment with the Wyoming Public Service Commission. You will likely see this filing in the public notices in your local newspaper.

More detail is published in this issue of the PRECorp News. For typical residential members who use 1,200 kWh per month, your monthly bill will increase from \$6 to \$8 per month starting in January. For those who have higher usage in the winter, your bill might be higher.

Please review the article in this edition for a deeper explanation why Basin took this big-picture action now, and how PRECorp is working to lessen the impact of this increase over the long term.

The PRECorp Team is ready to discuss any concerns members have about controlling their usage, bill pay solutions, and special rate control programs that might work under a variety of circumstances. This is part of our efforts to provide you, our members, with an ‘A-Plus’ member experience, great rates, and be a trusted energy partner.

So now for the good news portion of our message this month. The Board of Directors annually reviews the opportunity to retire Capital Credits to its member owners. These are like dividends for shareholders of a for-profit corporation. Since PRECorp is a not-for-profit member-owned cooperative, any excess margins are allocated back to you, the members.

From this allocation, the Board attempts to balance its cash flow with a distribution of those Capital Credits. A broad goal is to distribute 1.25% of those Capital Credits back to the membership every year. This year, the Board of Directors will send \$3,544,605 back to the membership in the form of Capital Credits. The timing and form of that distribution is being ironed out and we will have complete details in next month’s PRECorp News.

"...our work to create a stable rate that provides reliable and safe power continues to hold true."

Our efforts to steer the financial ship through the ups and downs of natural disasters, regulatory and legislative changes, and economic and demographic shifts remain a success story here at the cooperative. While many of your

neighbors in other counties and states have experienced double-digit rate changes over the past few years, our work to create a stable rate that provides reliable and safe power continues to hold true.

If our projections hold, we anticipate no rate increase from the PRECorp side in 2025 or 2026. We are diligent in managing our deferred revenue ‘savings account’ to balance our budget and satisfy our financial obligations to our lenders.

We are keenly aware of the challenges our members have faced in 2024, and these challenges will still be with us in 2025 as we recover from some of the worst fire seasons in the state’s history.

This is about your power provider accompanying you through these uncertain times and being your trusted source of power and information.

Here’s wishing all of you a blessed holiday season,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Mills". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

If you're heading out of town during the holiday season, remember to set your home to vacation mode. You can save energy while you're away by lowering your thermostat a few degrees or creating an "away" schedule with a smart or programmable thermostat. Newer water heaters include a vacation mode setting to help you save on water heating costs, or you can simply lower the temperature manually.

Small actions can also stack up to energy savings. Unplug devices that consume energy when they're not in use, including phone chargers, toothbrush chargers, TVs and gaming consoles.



Events Calendar

The list of PRECorp events includes Board meeting dates, holidays, telephone town hall meetings, and more.

- **Thursday and Friday, November 28-29** - Thanksgiving Holiday, PRECorp **OFFICES CLOSED**. Call 888-391-6220 to report an outage.
- **Tuesday, December 17** - PRECorp Board of Directors meeting, 9:30 a.m., Sheridan
- **December 24-25** - Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, PRECorp **OFFICES CLOSED**. Call 888-391-6220 for an outage.
- **January 1, 2025** - New Year's Day, PRECorp **OFFICES CLOSED**. Call 888-391-6220 for an outage.
- **Monday, March 3, 2025** - All-Employee Meeting, PRECorp **OFFICES CLOSED**. Call 888-391-6220 for an outage.



Ensure all smoke
alarms are
working properly.

HOLIDAY SAFETY REMINDER



Never leave
unattended
candles burning.

HOLIDAY SAFETY REMINDER

Drive safely; be cautious at accidents

At PRECorp, our primary concern is for the well-being of equipment operators, drivers, and passengers, whose lives and health are threatened in an accident.

Drivers who are distracted, inexperienced, careless, impaired, or overconfident on slick roads run the risk of colliding with another vehicle, or careening into a ditch.

Some accidents may require emergency responders and PRECorp crews to clear the scene, replace a broken pole, and restore power to the scores of members whose homes and ranches could be darkened by the accidents.

Be safe

While no driver can pick the place their automobile accident will happen, there are measures to keep in mind when driving on hazardous roads:

- Use your seat belt every time you get into your vehicle.
- Stay focused. Do not use your phone or dashboard controls if they pull your eyes or attention off the road.
- Do not use cruise control when driving on any slippery surface (wet, ice, sand, gravel).
- If your vehicle starts to slide, always look and steer where you want to go.
- Leave time and distance to slow down. It takes longer to slow down on icy roads.
- Double the following distance behind the cars in front of you. This increased margin of safety will provide the longer distance needed if you have to stop.
- Accelerate and decelerate slowly. Applying the gas slowly helps regain traction and avoids spin outs.
- Know your brakes. Whether you have antilock brakes or not, the best way to stop is to keep the heel of your foot on the floor and use the ball of your foot to apply firm, steady pressure on the brake pedal.

Below are some life-saving facts to know if you are involved in or come upon an accident.

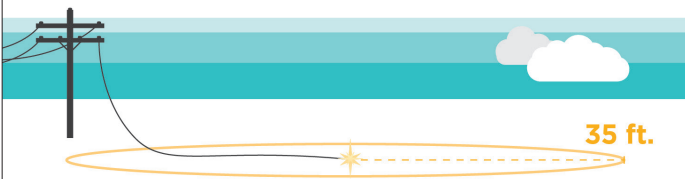
Know the hazards at an accident scene:

- If you come in contact with a power pole, line, or ground-level transformer, or come upon an accident of this nature, be very careful. Call 911 immediately.
- **STAY IN YOUR VEHICLE!** Unless the vehicle is on fire, do not get out of your vehicle if a power line is near it. If you must get out, jump clear, try to land on both feet, then shuffle or hop away.


- Do not touch or attempt to move a downed line.
- Stay back from the scene. Stepping in the direction of a downed power line exposes you to the risk of deadly voltages.
- Use caution. Fight the urge to escape or rush in until you have surveyed the area for potential hazards.

Downed and Dangerous


If you see a downed power line, always assume it is energized and dangerous. Avoid going near it or anything in contact with the power line.






Downed power lines can energize the ground up to **35 ft.** away - so keep your distance.



Never drive over a downed line or through water that is touching the line.



If you see a downed line, notify the local authorities immediately.

Never try to move a downed power line, even if you think the line is deenergized or if you're using a non-conductive item - this will not prevent injury or death!

Source: ESFI.org

Walking Taco Booth aids Veteran support groups

PRECorp employee volunteers raised and donated \$7,200 in funds to support the local charitable work of Veteran support groups. The employees worked their walking taco booth on the corner of the Crook County Courthouse lawn in Sundance during the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally “Burnout Wednesday” on Wednesday, August 7.

The three designated recipients, receiving \$2,400 each, are Heartfelt Quilts of Valor, Hunting with Heroes Wyoming, and Devils Tower VFW Post 4311. Quilts of Valor provides presentation quilts for Veterans and service members who have been touched by war. Hunting With Heroes provides Wyoming big game hunting experiences for disabled Veterans. Post 4311 seeks out any opportunity to help local Veterans.

“These three non-profit entities

provide critical support to Veterans in the Sundance and Crook County area, and, with the community’s assistance, we are eager to help them out as much as possible,” said PRECorp spokesperson Stephanie Pribilske.

“Adding to the volunteerism of Powder River Energy (PRECorp) employees, the Powder River Energy Foundation matched the funds raised (\$3,600), dollar-for-dollar – doubling the impact of the booth,” Pribilske said. “Thank you to the motorcycle riders and the local community for stopping by the booth in support of these three non-profit organizations.”

Since 2007, the Powder River Energy Foundation has driven more than \$2.5



million back to the communities in Campbell, Crook, Johnson, Sheridan, and Weston counties. For more information on the Foundation, its charitable giving, fundraising, or how organizations may apply for grants go to the Foundation website at www.precorpfoundation.org



PRECorp employees Tim Velder, Linda Tokarczyk, and Macee Stocker (in Taco shirts) present \$2,400 to VFW Post 4311 representative Jeff Gregson (center).

Rate increase...

from page 1.

and PRECorp to lessen the impact of this rate increase," said interim PRECorp VP of Accounting and Finance Abby Olson. "We were able to save up these dollars from previous years and leverage them to ensure this increase has less of an impact in 2025. Those funds bought us some time so that members can prepare for the increase to hit their bills later in the year when usage is lower."

"We understand any increase impacts every member whether they have high power usage or not. The last rate increases were in 2016 and 2020. This is a time for members to consider PRECorp's variety of programs to help control usage and costs," Mills said.

PRECorp offers Budget Billing, Heat Rates, Energy Audits, prepaid metering, and other arrangements to help members navigate their individual needs.

Members with specific questions about the impact on their monthly cost, can call PRECorp Member Service at 1-800-442-3630.

PRECorp CEO Brian Mills will answer questions during a **live telephone town hall meeting on Thursday, November 21, at 6:30 p.m.** PRECorp will call its members to begin the meeting and they are encouraged to listen in for general information and ask questions. The event is also streamed live on Facebook.

Christmas Meat Giveaway

TWO drawings will be held for a 25-pound bundle of local BEEF and PORK on Monday, December 9.

PRECorp Operation RoundUp[®] members are automatically entered in the drawings.

Not enrolled in Operation RoundUp[®]?

Call 1-800-442-3630.

Sign up by

5 PM Friday, December 6,

and be entered in a second drawing

on Monday, December 9.



Powder River Energy Foundation supports organizations with \$25k in Holiday giving

The Powder River Energy Foundation recently donated a total of \$25,000 to 17 charitable organizations in the five-county area of northeast Wyoming through its annual Holiday giving program.

“The Foundation’s mission is to lend a helping hand to nonprofit charitable organizations in northeast Wyoming who improve the quality of life or services in their community,” said Foundation Executive Director Joe Roth. “In 2024, people in our communities have experienced a variety of challenges. The charities that bring relief are also stretched. Our Foundation Board enthusiastically offers its support this Holiday season.”

The grants will go directly toward the Holiday season work of local charities in helping families in need at this time of year. This year’s recipients are:

Campbell County:

The Mercantile at Rawhide Elementary; Campbell County Council of Community Services; Campbell County Senior Center home-delivered meals;

Crook County:

Moorcroft Interfaith Community; Hulett Holiday Baskets; and Crook County Council of County Services/Sundance Food Pantry

Johnson County:

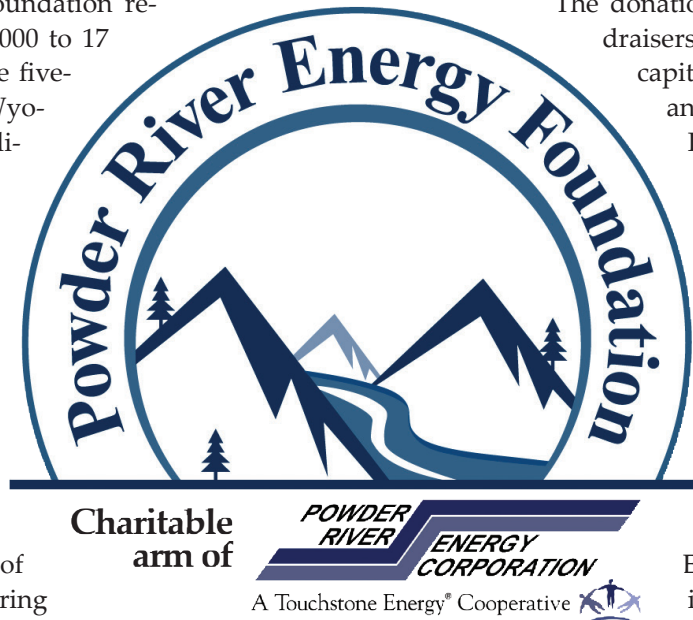
Johnson County Friends Feeding Friends; Kaycee Food Pantry; Bread of Life Food Pantry – Buffalo; and Compass Center for Families - Parent Liaison Program

Sheridan County:

The Food Group, Inc.; Sheridan Police Department - Cops for Kids; and Sheridan Foster Parent Exchange

Weston County:

Newcastle Ministerial Association Holiday giving; Helping Hands Foundation of Weston County; B.R.E.A.D. food pantry; and Weston County Peace Officers Shop with a Cop



The donation is possible through fundraisers, members donating their capital credits, matching grants, and PRECorp’s Operation RoundUp® program. Operation RoundUp® gathers voluntary contributions from participating co-op members by “rounding up” their monthly bill to the next dollar, resulting in an average donation of 50 cents a month. These donations are then transferred

to the Powder River Energy Foundation, which is governed by the independent, voluntary Board of Directors who represent five

counties in the PRECorp service area.

For more information on the Powder River Energy Foundation or to sign up for the Operation RoundUp® program, check the Operation RoundUp® program box on your monthly billing statement, or go to the Powder River Energy Foundation website at www.precorpfoundation.org.

Since its formation in 2007, the Powder River Energy Foundation has driven more than \$2.5 million in benefits to charitable organizations across PRECorp’s service territory.

One hundred percent of **Operation RoundUp® program** funds go directly to the organizations, and all administrative overhead for the Foundation is donated through its relationship with PRECorp.

Additionally, since the Powder River Energy Foundation is a 501(c)(3), donations may be tax deductible, including event sponsorships and capital credit donations. Fundraising events next year include the June 7 **Durham Ranch 5K/10K** walk-run; **WyoGives Day of Giving** on July 9, and a September 8 **Golf Scramble** at the Golf Club at Devils Tower.

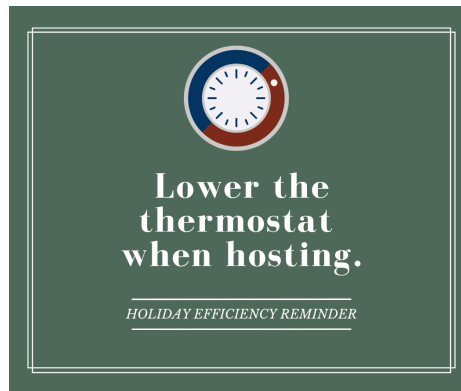
The Foundation’s Board of Directors reviews charitable donation applications monthly.

Five ways to fight winter chill and save

Winter months often bring some of the highest energy bills of the year. By being proactive about saving energy, you can increase the comfort of your home and reduce monthly bills. PRECorp staff can offer ideas to manage your home energy use and keep winter bills in check.

Here are five tips to help increase your home's energy efficiency this winter:

1. **Mind the thermostat.** This is one of the easiest ways to manage your home energy use. We recommend setting your thermostat to 68 degrees (or lower) when you're home. When you're sleeping or away for an extended period of time, try setting it between 58 and 62 degrees; there's no need to heat your home as much when you're away, sleeping or less active.
2. **Button up your home.** The Department of Energy estimates that air leaks account for 24% to 40% of the energy used for heating and cooling a home. If you can feel drafts while standing near a window or door, it likely needs to be sealed. Caulking and weather stripping around windows and doors is another simple, cost-effective way to increase comfort and save energy.
3. **Use window coverings wisely.** Open blinds, drapes or other window coverings during the day to allow natural sunlight in to warm your home. Close them at night to keep the cold, drafty air out. If you feel cold air around windows, consider hanging curtains or drapes in a thicker material; heavier window coverings can make a significant difference in blocking cold outdoor air.



4. **Consider your approach to appliance use.** When combined, appliances and electronics account for a significant chunk of our home energy use, so assess how efficiently you're using them. For example, if you're running the dishwasher or clothes washer, only wash full loads. Look for electronic devices that consume energy even when they're not in use, like phone chargers or game consoles. Every little bit helps, so unplug them to save energy.

5. **Think outside the box.** If you're still feeling chilly at home, think of other ways to warm up—beyond dialing up the thermostat. Add layers of clothing, wear thick socks and bundle up under blankets. You can even add layers to your home! If you have hard-surface flooring, consider purchasing an area rug to block cold air that leaks in through the floor.

Also, remember that you may find quality rugs, window coverings, and weatherization items at an affordable price through local thrift stores or clearance aisles. You don't always need to pay full price or shop online.

If you're taking steps to save energy but continue to see major increases in your usage, give us a call at 1-800-442-3630 or take advantage of our

free home energy audits. Start with PRECorp Member Service and we can help identify areas and other factors impacting your home energy use and recommend next steps for savings.

Go to our website at www.precorp.coop/helpful-links for additional energy-saving tips.

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Powder River Energy Corporation is an equal opportunity provider and employer.