

Outage stats trending positive

The total number of outages within the PRECorp power distribution system continue to go down, but in 2021 members experienced longer restoral times.

There were 960 power outages in 2021, a record low since this type of detailed record-keeping started in 2007. But each meter averaged just under 4 hours of power outages in 2021, compared to only 3 ½ hours in 2020.

There are many factors that contribute to changes in the outage numbers each year, but the absence of thunderstorms and milder weather in the latter half of 2021 reduced the outage numbers.

That's not to say there weren't major weather events. There was a tornadic storm that plowed through Campbell County and Weston County in July, which not only broke several poles, but created outages that lasted for multiple hours. There was



PRECorp photo

PRECorp crews repair line on Bishop Road during a July 2021 storm outage.

also an October snowstorm that left broken poles behind in nearly all of PRECorp's counties. These are examples of "major events" when the length of the outage is about 20 times longer than average.

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Regular business: 1-800-442-3630 • Report an outage: 1-888-391-6220
www.precorp.coop

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MIKE EASLEY,
CEO

Our Vision:

We will be pioneers of excellence in the Cooperative Network while delivering extraordinary value to our members, embracing a visionary outlook, leveraging accelerating technologies, empowering our team and engaging our membership.

Our Purpose:

Positively influencing and improving lives for those we serve by providing reliable energy and services while paving the way for access and affordability.



Our Moonshot:

Drive down costs so that the first megawatt hour of energy usage is at or near zero cost by 2050.

Agents of change and stability

The cold and dark winter months are times when many people look inward at the changes that have happened in their lives and changes they would like to make in the future.

“It’s hard to believe how much has changed in...” Or, “This year I’m finally going to...” Fill in the blanks.

As a cooperative, PRECorp cherishes its rich history of navigating the choppy waters of northeast Wyoming’s economy, weather, and technology.

When rural electrification came to our five counties, it was a seismic change in people’s lives. The electric power made work easier and added light at the dark ends of each day. For many, this was a massive change of lifestyle and how they lived their lives. It was also a rock of stability.

The communities of northeast Wyoming suddenly had a stable source of power they could lean on as they mapped out their futures.

Today, we are bombarded with many opportunities to accept or resist change. At PRECorp, our Board and employee team weigh the risks and benefits of changing with the world or holding our ground and changing the world as we know it in northeast Wyoming.

Our ongoing work of adapting our long-range Purpose, Vision, and Moonshot to the changes around us continues to hold fast to the basic values of service to the membership, improving lives, and keeping rural electricity affordable. When you see the ‘Shoot for the Moon’ logo on something, it is a connected in some way to our Moonshot goals, such as the programs below.

- Many members use the SmartHub smartphone app that helps you manage your account from anywhere you have connectivity.
- Our metering system is upgraded to give our team more data, at faster speeds, so they can address power reliability and quality at a moment’s notice. This single change is seismic for those who work for PRECorp. But the changes of making work easier and keeping lights on at the end of the day, bring a new level of stability to the lives of our members.
- We will launch additional services throughout the coming months and years that will add value to your membership and improve your lives. These include pre-paid metering, where certain members might find an advantage to a pay-as-you-go method to keep the power on at their house.
- Perhaps an electric vehicle can provide change and stability for certain people. If you have been curious about EV’s but never had a chance to try one, inquire with our Member Service team about taking our Sundance EV for a test drive. No sales pressure. Just try it out and see what you think.

Many of these changes are driven by the constructive suggestions we receive from our residential, commercial, and industrial members. The member-owned cooperative model lets the customer have a voice in how their utility is run. You offer many quality ideas about ways we can do things better and your voices are heard. Whether it be in one-on-one meetings, telephone town halls, the Annual Meeting, voting for your Board of Directors, or other interactions, we look forward to another year of good conversations with you, our member-owners.

Mike

Coming events:

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

- **Monday, February 21** - All-Employee Meeting, PRECorp offices closed. Call 1-888-391-6220 with an outage.
- **Tuesday, February 22** - PRECorp Board of Directors meeting, 9:30 a.m., Gillette
- **Tuesday, February 22** - PRECorp Foundation Board meeting, 10:30 a.m., Gillette
- **Wednesday, March 2** - PRECorp CEO Telephone Town Hall, member invite call at 6:30 p.m., stream live on Facebook, or dial 888-886-6602
- **Tuesday, March 22** - PRECorp Board of Directors meeting, 9:30 a.m., Sheridan
- **Tuesday, March 22** - PRECorp Foundation Board meeting, teleconference
- **Tuesday, April 19** - PRECorp Board of Directors meeting, 9:30 a.m., Gillette
- **Tuesday, April 19** - PRECorp Foundation Board meeting, 9 a.m., Gillette
- **Tuesday, May 17** - PRECorp Board of Directors meeting, 9:30 a.m., Sundance
- **Tuesday, May 24** - PRECorp Foundation Board meeting, teleconference
- **Wednesday, May 25** - PRECorp CEO Telephone Town Hall, member invite call at 6:30 p.m., stream live on Facebook, or dial 888-886-6602
- **Saturday, June 4** - Durham Ranch Buffalo Stampede 5k/10k run
- **Tuesday, June 21** - PRECorp Board of Directors meeting, 9:30 a.m., Sheridan
- **Saturday, August 27** - PRECorp Annual Meeting, Gillette Cam-Plex Energy Hall

Three employees retire from PRECorp in 2022



Malo



Olson



Wagaman

Sandi Wagaman, Rod Malo, and Bruce Olson retired from PRECorp in January and February 2022. Following are capsules of their service to the membership and future plans.

Rod Malo

Distribution Design Technician Rod Malo marked nearly 30 years with the cooperative, generally working directly with members on electric service requests for safe delivery of power to rural residents. "This job has allowed me to be outdoors and meet people from all parts of the country," he said. "Some have become great friends."

Rod and his wife Deb have two grown sons. He plans to spend time working on his rural property, and spending time with family, which includes hunting and fishing.

Bruce Olson

PRECorp Fleet Manager Bruce Olson departed the coop in January, after 15-plus years of service.

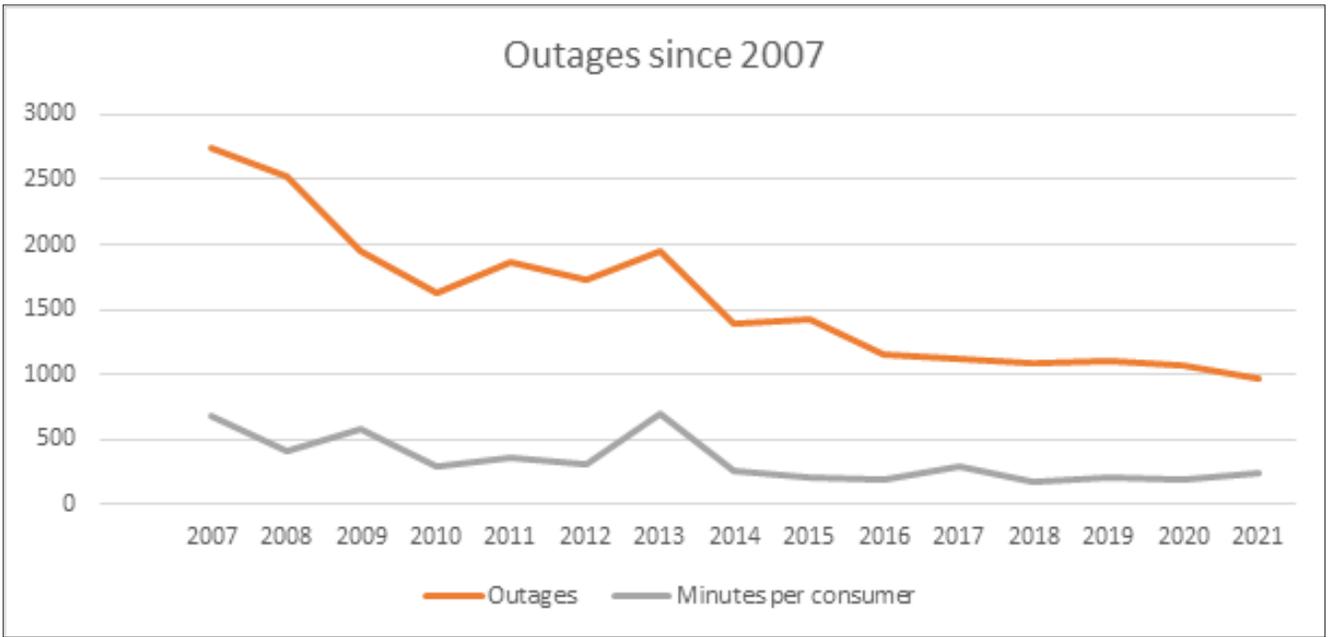
Olson said his challenge during his career is to keep every PRECorp service vehicle and pool vehicle in working order, and update the overall fleet, "so the co-op members would have a fleet that they could be proud of."

Bruce and his wife Lisa have eight children and 10 grandchildren. Their first goal is to ensure their two youngest children are raised and spend more time fishing, hunting, and traveling with family.

Sandi Wagaman

Sandi has been in the PRECorp accounting department since joining the cooperative in 1992. After 30 years, primarily in the payroll department, Sandi and her husband Mike will spend more time with family and do a little more traveling. They have two grown children and one grandson "who is the apple of our eye," she said.

"I have always loved what I do, which made going to work easy," she said. "The pay and benefits are awesome, and I have made many lifelong friends which is a bonus."



Outage stats...

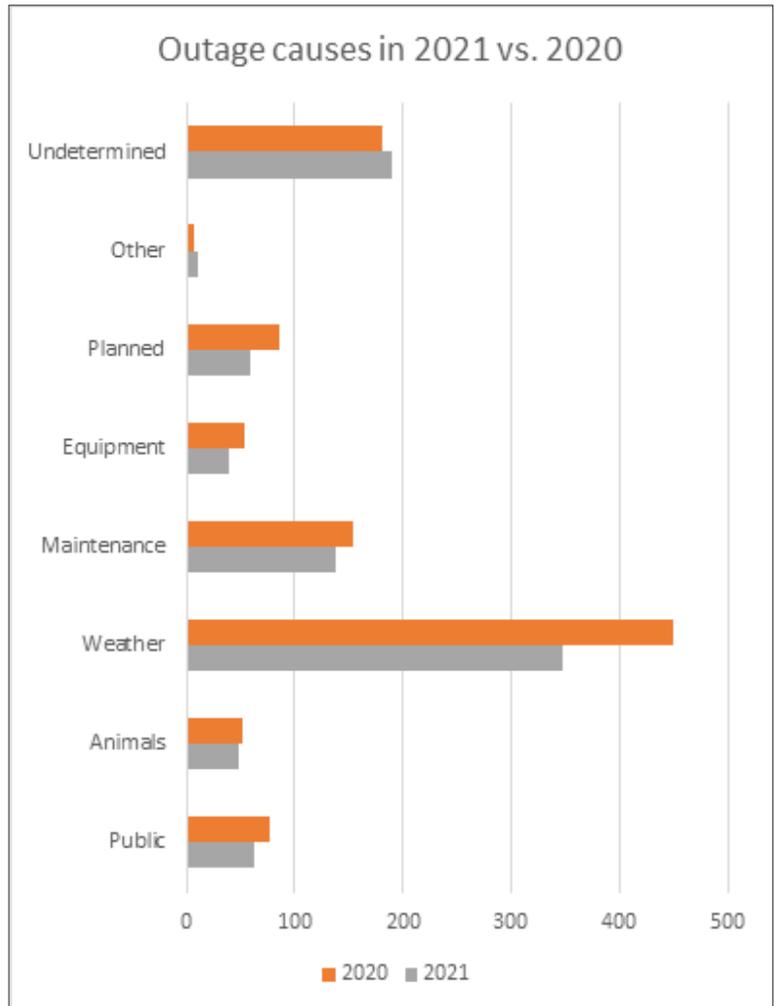
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What are the common causes?

Outages can be grouped into two areas of origin – Controllable and Uncontrollable. Controllable outages involve scheduled replacement and repair of equipment, or any other aspect when PRECorp crews need to turn off power to safely complete a project. PRECorp teams schedule maintenance projects throughout the year, and notify members days ahead of time that power will need to be off while they work.

Uncontrollable outages are generally related to animals, weather, or accidental events caused by humans. These can occur anytime without warning, but crews are ready to respond. The Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) system will assist in isolating the location of the outage, but on-scene repairs are still required.

“I commend the work of our line crews, dispatchers, engineering team, and member service representatives who coordinate all of this data behind the scenes,” PRECorp VP of System Operations Rich Halloran said. “There is a lot of planning and training that goes into rolling a truck to the location of an outage. We



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Outage stats...

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continue to work diligently to provide more reliability on our power grid each and every year. We also appreciate the patience and support that our members show for our crews during those cold, dark, or stormy nights restoring power.”

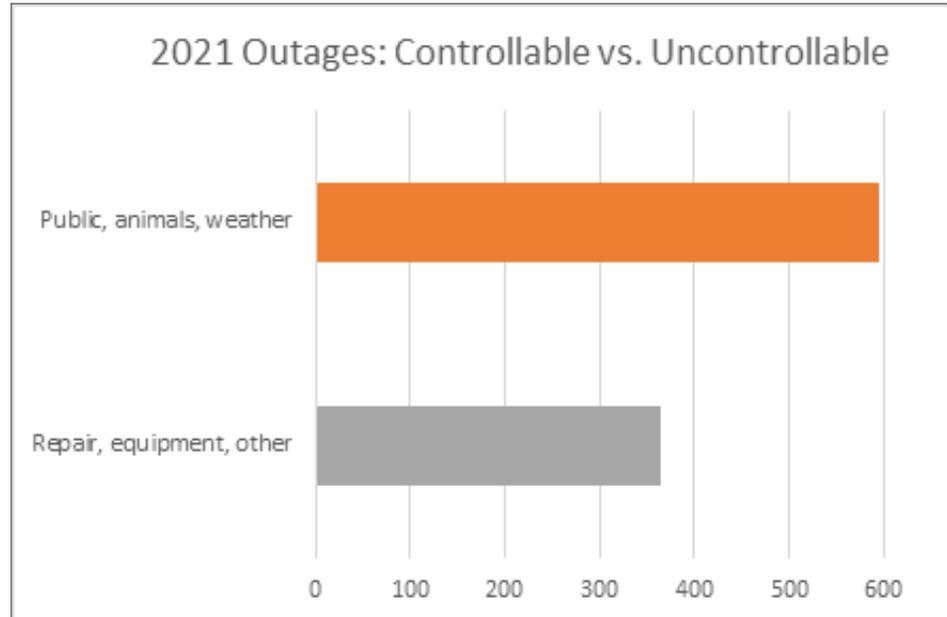
As part of the Moonshot strategy, PRECorp leverages various technologies to reduce the number of uncontrollable outages. They include AMI, protective covers to keep animals away from delicate equipment, installation of lightning arrestors, scheduled line patrol, drone flights, and public education. Members are reminded to be aware of power lines through ongoing safety messaging, including print and radio ads, social media, newsletters, and bill inserts.

Wildfire mitigation

PRECorp has been diligent in times of high fire danger to ensure the system is as resilient as possible. In extreme heat, members use electricity for immediate needs such as pasture water pumps and residential air conditioning. However, PRECorp is also sensitive to detecting problems as quickly as possible. The AMI system provides important data of potential issues in various locations, but on Red Flag weather days, PRECorp will likely take a more structured approach.

Outages could be more frequent as breakers will be set to kill power at the first indication of a fault, rather than the automatic restart of power. An example might be the incidence of high winds on a hot day, when a tree branch or small bird might contact a power line. Instead of recharging the line automatically, a crew or a drone can be dispatched to the scene to inspect the line before restoring power. This is done to try to prevent a situation where a spark from a branch could start a fire on the ground.

“We have a lot of exposure to extreme weather events because we have thousands of poles carrying thousands of miles of line in the open country of northeast Wyoming. Whenever there is a major storm, some of those



structures crack under the pressure,” said Halloran. “We also experience infrequent power supply issues where a provider outside our territory has an issue that only they can fix. These outages aren’t always connected to weather but take time to safely restore.”

Staying the course

In the past decade, PRECorp has seen vast reductions in outage frequency because greater attention is being paid to preventative maintenance of infrastructure starting at the substations and extending out to the single-phase distribution lines.

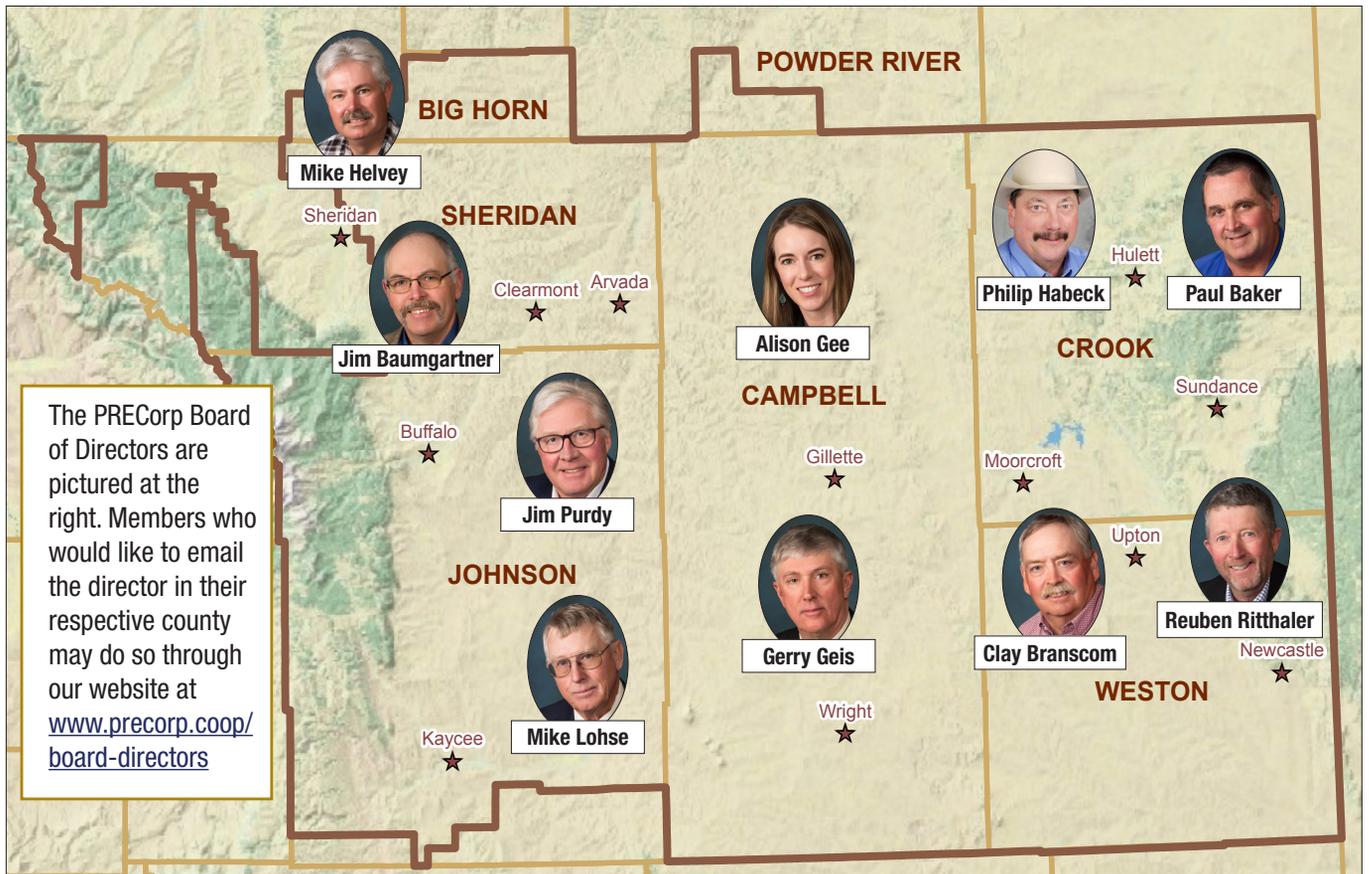
In late 2021, the AMI installation project was completed. This system gives real-time reports of power quality, outages, and usage readings from each meter location.



There will be many uses for this technology. One of those is improved response times and restoration of power. These AMI readings can notify dispatchers and line crews in seconds where an outage is occurring, enabling them to safely deploy resources to the right places at the right times.

The AMI will also help archive data and create predictive scenarios when combined with weather data. In the near future, PRECorp will have the ability to target areas of the system that are susceptible to weather damage such as icing and sustained winds, which cause galloping lines, power blips, and outages.

Know your PRECorp Board of Directors:



Deadline reminders for 2022 scholarships

Powder River Energy Corporation facilitates many scholarships for eligible high school and post-secondary students from northeast Wyoming.

To apply for any of the scholarships, students must satisfy the required criteria and complete the scholarship application. Updated 2022 scholarship information is available online at: www.precorp.coop/student-scholarships.

Descriptions and deadlines for some of the scholarships follow:

Powder River Energy Corporation/Foundation Scholarship - \$1,500

To qualifying seniors and post-secondary students from 14 high schools and up to 5 at-large students in its service territory. Applicant's parents or legal guardians must be active PRECorp members.

The deadline for the Powder River Energy Corporation Scholarship is March 1, 2022.

Barb and Bill Geis Memorial Scholarship - \$400 to \$1,000

To qualifying seniors from Coal Country FFA or Gillette FFA in Campbell County, who are pursuing careers benefitting the agriculture industry. **The deadline for the Barb and Bill Geis Memorial Scholarship is March 1, 2022.**

Kathleen Tavegie Memorial Scholarship - up to \$1,000

This scholarship is available to students of PRECorp members from Weston County who are pursuing a degree in Elementary Education. **The deadline for the Tavegie Memorial Scholarship is March 1, 2022.**

PRECorp Lineman Scholarship - \$3,000 and up

The PRECorp Lineman Scholarship is available to qualifying applicants who plan to attend an approved lineworker training program. Awards can be up to \$7,000.

The deadline for the PRECorp Lineman Scholarship is March 1, 2022.

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.

Accidents may require emergency responders and PRECorp crews to clear the scene, replace the broken poles, and restore power to the scores of members whose homes and businesses are darkened by the accidents.

In the column on the right are some life-saving facts to know if you are involved in or discover an accident.

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.
- Slow down and get over when passing emergency response vehicles parked on the shoulder. This includes utility vehicles such as PRECorp trucks.
- 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.

Know the hazards at an accident scene:

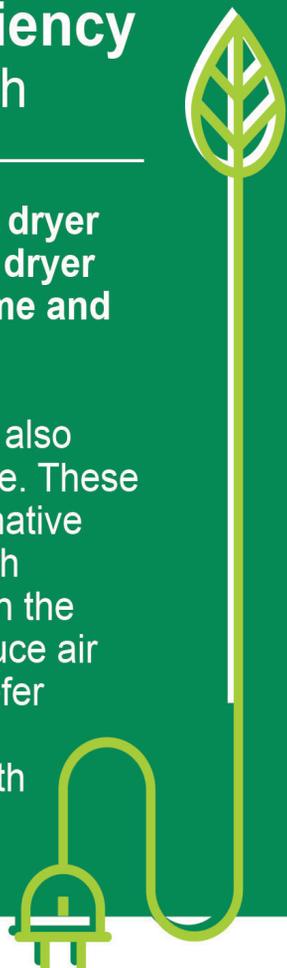
- If you come in contact with a power pole, line, or ground-level transformer, or come upon an accident of this nature, be very careful. Call 911 immediately.
- **STAY IN YOUR VEHICLE!** Unless the vehicle is on fire, do not get out of your vehicle if a power line is near it.
- Do not touch or attempt 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.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Use wool or rubber dryer balls in the clothes dryer to reduce drying time and static.

Wool dryer balls can also absorb extra moisture. These are an efficient alternative to dryer sheets, which can create buildup on the dryer's filter and reduce air circulation. If you prefer dryer sheets, scrub the filter once a month to remove buildup.

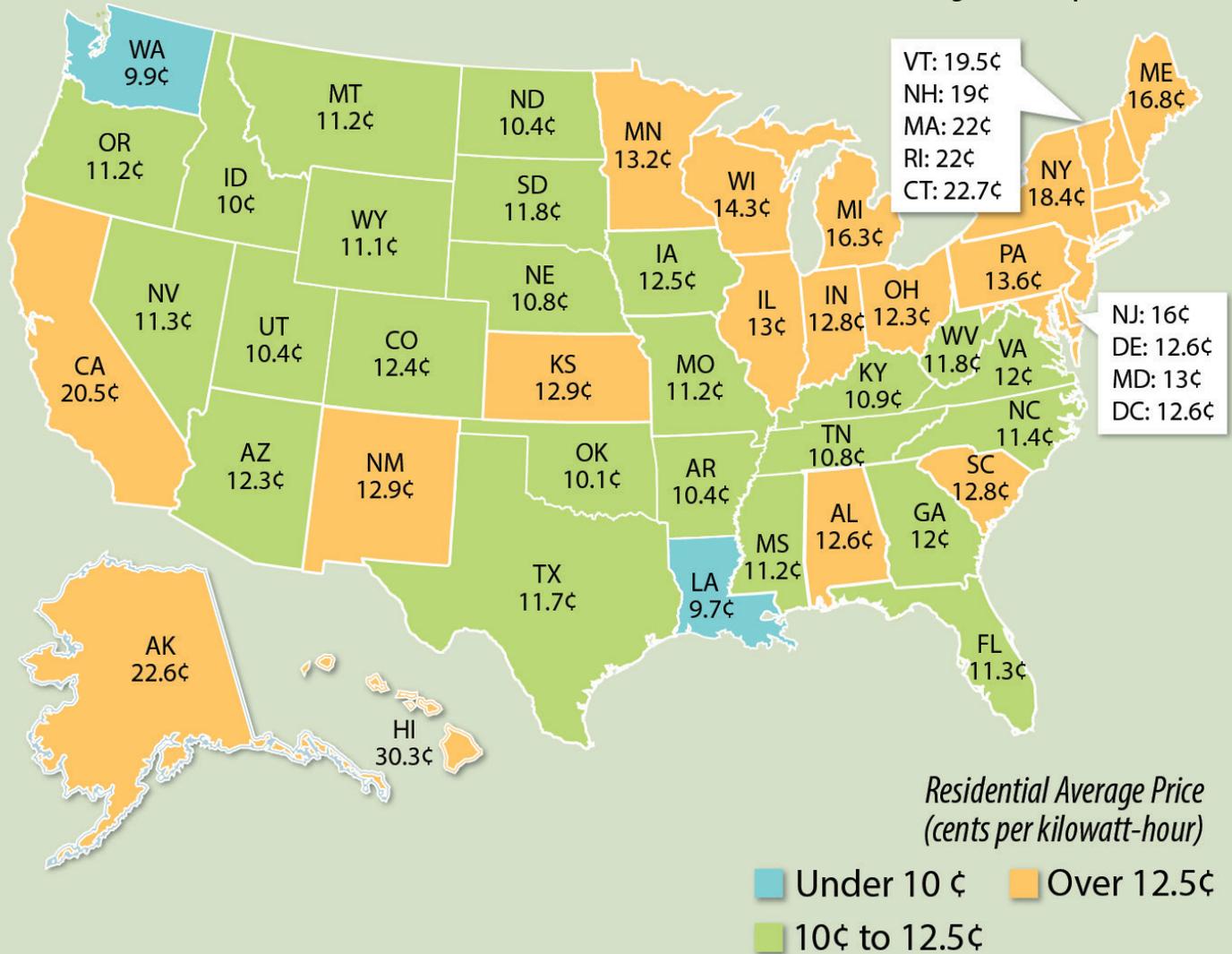
Source: www.energy.gov



Average Prices for Residential Electricity

2020 figures, in cents per kWh

U.S. Average: 13.2¢ per kWh



Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration
Numbers rounded to nearest tenth of a cent



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Regular business: 1-800-442-3630

Report an outage: 1-888-391-6220

www.precorp.coop

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