

In Our Community

You Can Make a Difference in Your Home

It isn't too difficult to see that electric use is much higher this time of year than during the warmer seasons. Cold weather causes many of us to bump the thermostat up a degree or two to help take the chill off. We will often bring out space heaters to help warm up a TV room or a bedroom. These items are typically less efficient and will also add to the kilowatt-hour (kWh) use in the home.

There are a lot of ways to save electricity in today's homes. Compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs are far more efficient than incandescent bulbs and will last a great deal longer. Incandescent bulbs are about 10-percent efficient in lighting and about 90-percent efficient in producing heat. CFLs don't produce a lot of heat, so their main function is light production helping to reduce kWh use.

Insulation can be added to the ceiling, wall or floor. It is one of the least expensive ways to keep the chill off during the winter. Insulation is also a good way to keep the home from getting too warm in the summer. Its efficiency is multipurpose.

If your water heater has a leak or if your hot water tap is leaking you could be literally sending wasted electricity down the drain. Do not overlook these electricity wasters. Make the needed fixes to keep the meter from spinning like a top.

The most important advice Big Bend Electric Co-op can give is to get to know your home. If you think your bill is too high, check out your home and look for places that can be made more efficient. Almost all of the high bill inquiries from consumers can be traced to inefficiencies in the home.

Electrical savings are important to Big Bend Electric Co-op. It is important that the electricity is working for you and not burning a hole in your pocket. If you have a question about making your home more efficient, contact Dale Anderson at Big Bend by calling (866) 844-2363 or (509) 659-1700.



Big Bend's Santa Claus was a big hit at the Lind holiday parade.

Kathryn L. Miller Holiday Parade

The Eighth Annual Kathryn L. Miller parade was in Lind on a crisp December 9. There were lots of entries from Lind and Ritzville this year. Organizations, churches and businesses spent a lot of time putting together lighted floats, trailers and even a large, well-lit Case-International wheel tractor.

Big Bend Electric Co-op, Ritzville Chamber of Commerce and Adams County Economic Development co-sponsored a light-

ed vehicle for the night's festivities. A lighted Santa Claus riding atop a green inflatable tractor was perched in the back of a pickup, waving to the folks lining the downtown streets.

Big Bend's Dale Anderson, who is also the Ritzville Chamber of Commerce president, and Adams County Economic Analyst Roger Krug decorated the pickup and drove it.

Big Bend Electric Co-op is pleased to see members getting involved with this fun parade.

Pasco Ag Expo and Farm Forum

Big Bend Electric Co-op is planning for the Pasco Ag Show and Farm Forum. The popular agriculture show will again be at TRAC, just off Road 68 north of Interstate 82 in Pasco. This year's dates for the annual event are January 8-9.

Make sure you drop by the booth and say hello. Big Bend Electric Co-op wants to get to know our members, if we don't already.

This will also be a great opportunity to talk to us about irrigation, commercial and residential conservation. Look for us in the Expo Hall, booth 120.

Youth Tour and Scholarships Deadlines

A quick reminder for those interested, Washington, D.C., Youth Tour applications must be in our office before Friday, January 11, at 4:30 p.m.

Scholarship applications are due Friday, February 1, before closing at 4:30 p.m. If you have any questions please contact Dale at (877) 844-2363 or (509) 659-1700. ■