

PARK SPARKS

JANUARY 2023

Scholarships Available



Park Electric is pleased to continue a tradition of scholarship giving in 2023. We are accepting applications for the MECA Memorial Scholarship and the Basin/Park Electric scholarship from now until January 27th.

Park Electric selects the top candidate from our pool of applicants for the MECA Memorial Scholarship. That applicant goes on to compete against six other regional cooperative selections for a \$1000 scholarship awarded at the statewide level.

The Basin/Park Electric scholarship is selected from all qualified applicants by Park Electric and awarded a \$1000 scholarship.

Hurry, applications and essays are due by January 27th! Check our website or with your school guidance counselor for applications/more information.



Update
Contact Info



Happy New Year!

Park Electric would like to be able to reliably contact you. Please call or go online to our customer service portal to verify that the following information is correct: mailing address, phone numbers, and email. You can also update your bill delivery preference. We offer the ability to receive bills via email, US mail or both. Keeping your information up to date allows to keep in touch about outages, capital credits, or other important information that needs to be shared.



5 Ways to Save During Winter

Winter weather typically means increased energy use at home. Keep your bills in check with these tips to save energy—and money!

Mind the thermostat. If you have a traditional heating and cooling system, set the thermostat to 68 degrees or lower. Consider a smart or programmable thermostat for additional savings.

Get cozy. Add layers of clothing for additional warmth, and snuggle up under your favorite heavyweight blanket.

Don't block the heat. If your air vents or heating elements (like radiators) are blocked by furniture or rugs, your home isn't being adequately heated.

Take advantage of sunlight. Open window coverings during the day to let natural sunlight in to warm your home. Close them at night to block the chilly night air.

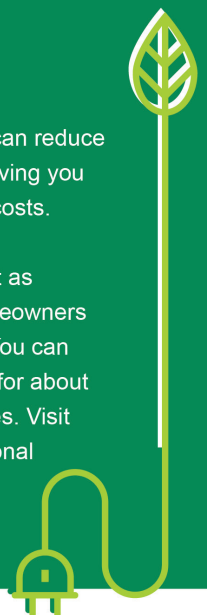
Block air leaks. Seal windows and exterior doors with caulk and weather stripping to improve indoor comfort and decrease the amount of energy used to heat your home.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Insulating your electric water heater can reduce standby heat loss by 25% to 45%, saving you 7% to 16% on annual water heating costs.

The Dept. of Energy rates this project as medium difficulty, meaning most homeowners can tackle this project on their own. You can purchase pre-cut jackets or blankets for about \$20 at most home improvement stores. Visit energy.gov for project tips and additional considerations.

Source: energy.gov



Managers Comments

by Matt Haggerty

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Something that I feel may be taken for granted or misunderstood by many people is: what does it take to get electricity to your light switch? Let's take a closer look at that process. Electricity begins at a generation source, often this is referred to as a power plant. At these generating sites, different technologies can be used. For example, water can be heated to steam using fuels such as natural gas, oil, and coal. The steam created then turns the turbines that turn generators to produce electric energy. In some areas, the heat generated from nuclear fission creates the heat to turn the water into steam. In the case of hydroelectric dams, water flowing through the dam powers the turbines and generates electricity. In any of these cases, the electricity generated is referred to in the electric industry as base load generation. Calling them base load means the electricity is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Renewables are being added as generation sources also. Examples of renewable generation include solar, wind turbines, and geothermal. These technologies have become a larger piece of the generation portfolio in recent years. They help supplement the generation going onto the grid, but cannot solely sustain our large-scale usages across the United States the way base load generation can.

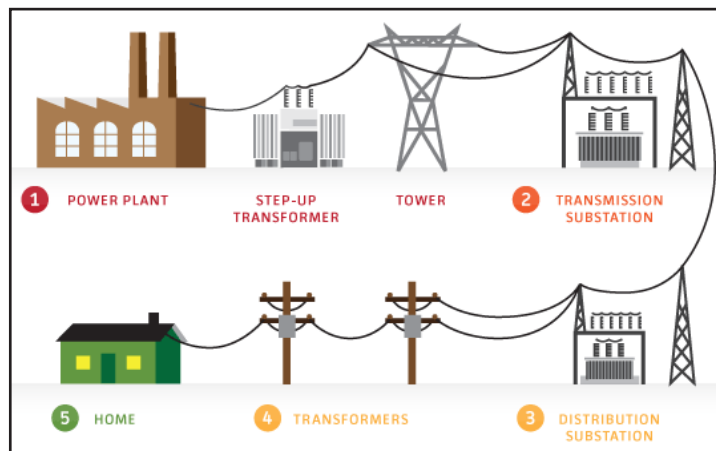
After the base load has been generated, the electricity goes through a step-up transformer at a substation which increases the voltage up to 500,000 volts. (In some parts of the country it can run up to 765,000 volts.) With this step up, the electricity can travel long

distances over high-voltage transmission lines. These lines span across the country in what is known as the electric grid. The power runs to your local distribution substation where it is then reduced to distribution voltages that are generally from 7,200-19,900 volts. These substations are generally located within 20 miles of your home and are owned and operated by Park Electric. From the substation, the electricity leaves on distribution lines which can be overhead or underground lines. We all see these lines on nearly every road across our coverage area. Finally, the power comes into our houses, ranches, farms, schools,

and small businesses through transformers that reduce the voltage to usable levels. For a home, this is generally 120/240 volts and for a ranch or small business, it can range between 120-480 volts depending on the member's needs.

Some members choose to power their own properties. This type of

generation usually takes place near the meter using solar or wind turbines. These generation sources interconnect with Park electric's lines through our net metering or direct purchase programs. They're connected to our lines through a cut-off switch and other equipment. The switch disconnects the turbine from the line to ensure the safety of our linemen working during outages or scheduled maintenance. If you would like to learn more about how your electricity is generated or net metering or direct purchase programs, feel free to call our office today at 222-7778.



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