

# PARK SPARKS

NOVEMBER 2021

PARK ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

 Touchstone Energy Cooperatives

## GREEN TAG PROGRAM



Park Electric Cooperative, in conjunction with Basin Electric Power Cooperative, have been bringing our members the option of green power since 2006. Park Electric Cooperative offers green power through Basin Electric Power Cooperative's PrairieWinds – Energy in Motion Green Tag Program. Green Tags are the intangible environmental benefits associated with energy produced from renewable resources. It allows our members to voluntarily contribute to the development of renewable energy production facilities such as wind energy.

The PrairieWinds project consists of 77-1.5 MW wind turbines. You are not purchasing this renewable power directly, but participating in the development of the power. The premium for green power is currently .1 cents (\$.001) per kilowatt-hour. This is an additional expense above normal rates for each kilowatt-hour consumed. If you are interested in becoming part the Green Tag Program, please contact the office via email at [info@parkelectric.coop](mailto:info@parkelectric.coop) or give us a call!

## YOUTH TOUR TO WASHINGTON DC 2022

Calling all current High School Sophomores and Juniors! We are looking for a student who is interested in spending a week in Washington DC with fellow students from coops all over the country!



Park Electric will select one lucky winner to receive an all expense paid trip to Washington DC as part of a delegation of students from Montana. During the trip, students will get to experience national landmarks, meet our state representatives in congress and much more!

The trip will run June 18-25, 2022. Applications and contest rules can be found on our website at [www.parkelectric.coop/youth-tour-washington-dc](http://www.parkelectric.coop/youth-tour-washington-dc) or from your guidance counselor. Please have your application and essay turned in to Park Electric before November 30th!



## Managers Comments *by* Matt Haggerty

Park Electric Cooperative, or PEC, has recently found some meter bases that were illegally compromised on the cooperative side of the meter. I share this as a concern for safety and equity of our members. Only trained electric cooperative personnel wearing personal protective equipment should work on meters or power lines between the transformer and the meter. PEC would also like members to know that deliberately tampering with an electric meter or the cooperative's delivery lines to steal electricity is illegal. It is also illegal for an unauthorized person to reconnect a meter after the utility has disconnected it. PEC will prosecute for theft of power from its system and will seek restitution for revenue loss and damages. Meter tampering is not only a crime, but it is also extremely dangerous.

The industry has seen people do dangerous things using knives, screw drivers, shunts, and any number of other objects to get around paying for the power they use. Not only are these people stealing from their fellow co-op members, but they are

also risking their lives and those of our employees. According to the Cooperative Research Network, a division of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, power surging through a compromised meter can cause an electrical catastrophe. A short circuit could produce an arc flash bright enough to cause blindness and powerful enough to launch

fragments of red-hot debris like shrapnel. Meter tampering often causes serious injury or death from electrocution, explosion or fire. Electricity theft is not a victimless crime. Your not-for-profit co-op loses revenue and spends time and money to investigate tampering. In rare cases these acts go unnoticed for a period of time, causing costs to be passed on to the entire membership. National estimates vary, but Power System Engineering reports

some \$6 billion worth of electricity is stolen from utilities in the United States annually. If you ever see someone other than a PEC employee working on a meter base, please report them to us at 222-7778. Please help us keep rates low and our staff safe.

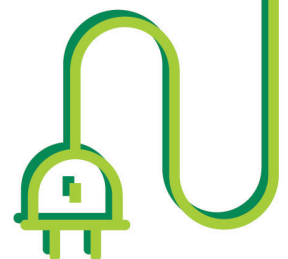


## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Old, uninsulated and improperly installed exterior doors can waste energy and money.

Shut the door on wasted energy by weather stripping and sealing all exterior doors. If you have an old exterior door, consider replacing it with a newer, energy efficient model.

*Source: energy.gov*



Happy Thanksgiving!  
We are thankful for our members.

The Park Electric office will be closed Thursday and Friday November 25th and 26th for the holiday.